

IRISES

The Bulletin of the American Iris Society



'Notta Lemon' (Burseen, 2010)
AIS President's Cup Winner



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Triennial Single: \$60.00 / Dual: \$75.00

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'Unbuttoned Zippers' (Schafer-Sacks, 2011)

Photo: Kelly Norris

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On the Front Cover

*'Lemon Mousse' (Hollingworth, 2012),
Photo by K. Norris*

As I write this I have completed six months as your president and it has been an interesting experience so far. I believe we witnessed a more normal iris bloom season this year so that I was able to see irises in bloom before, during and after the April AIS Convention in Dallas, Texas. Congratulations to convention co-chairs Bonnie and Hooker Nichols and all their volunteers for a great time.

One of the most enjoyable functions to me was presiding over the AIS awards presentations to our wonderful hybridizers. You will see several smiling faces of the award recipients in this issue. Considering the hard work of the convention committee, it was a treat to announce the following convention awards:

Ben Hager Median Cup

'Boy Genius (Ghio 2012, BB)22 votes
'Birds And Bees' (Black 2011, IB)21
'Holiday In Mexico' (Probst 2012, MTB).....20

Franklin Cook Cup

'Double Platinum (Ghio 2012, TB).....26 votes
'Bottle Rocket' (M. Sutton 2010, TB-RE)16
'Bohemia After Dark' (Kerr 2011, TB)13

President's Cup

'Notta Lemon' (Burseen 2010, TB).....43 votes
'Trumped' (Burseen 2008, TB).....29
'American Goddess' (H. Nichols 2013, TB).....16

The standing ovation for Tom Burseen upon winning the President's Cup was thrilling to see and to experience. Tom was overwhelmed. He wrote me the highlighted letter shortly thereafter on April 21. (Punctuation, exclamations, etc. are all Tom's.)

Dear Jim,

It has been often said that AIS Conventions are fun and getting to see all the latest introductions is enlightening, but what makes such conventions so memorable are the PEOPLE. This year's convention was living proof of such a notion for Tom Burseen. For instance, winning the President's Cup was really "neat," but what made this award REALLY GRATIFYING for the country bumpkin was it seemed everyone else was just as happy he received such an award as he was.

Getting to correlate names related to articles, letters, and even orders to faces and personalities will remain with me forever, but what really overwhelmed me at this

year's convention was how the president went out of his way to greet, recognize, even embrace ole Tom on several occasions. You made me feel like a king! You are truly special!! Thank you, Tom Burseen.

In the Internet age, it is nice to be able to write and receive actual paper and ink letters. I was able to write to

Dr. Georgy I. Rodionenko of the Komarov Botanical Institute, St. Petersburg, Russia congratulating him on his 100th birthday anniversary on March 28, 2013. The letter appears in this issue's *Standards and Falls*. You can read much about Dr. Rodionenko in the Summer 2013, Issue 88 of *SIGNA*, which features write-ups by Yuri Pirogov and Dr. Nina Alexeeva.

One interesting aspect of reviewing Facebook posts is that of seeing those of foreign participants in countries such as Spain and Serbia. While some depict "modern" or current cultivars, others are woefully dated, perhaps because of remoteness, cultivar availability or even the wars in the old Yugoslovian environs. But it is fascinating to see numerous pictures posted of irises that appear suspended in time—those seemingly of 1920s to 1930s or earlier vintage. And they are not on the HIPS sites, but rather what is being grown today in villages and gardens of iris lovers around the world.

For an example of these old but beautiful flowers, see postings by Gordana Stojanovic outside Belgrade near Smederevo, Serbia. Also posting are Loic Tasquier and Izidor Golob, Borislav Stankic, Elaine Stulec, Edvinas Mislukевич and more. It was also interesting to me to see former TBIS president Bob Van Liere's daughter has started up a commercial garden in Hamburg, Germany (with stock from her father) as Iris4u Greenhouse Schwertlilien Versand (iris4u.de). A profile of Jennifer Van Liere Dreyer and her business will appear in the October/November issue.

The iris world is truly international and growing closer together. Stay tuned. ♣

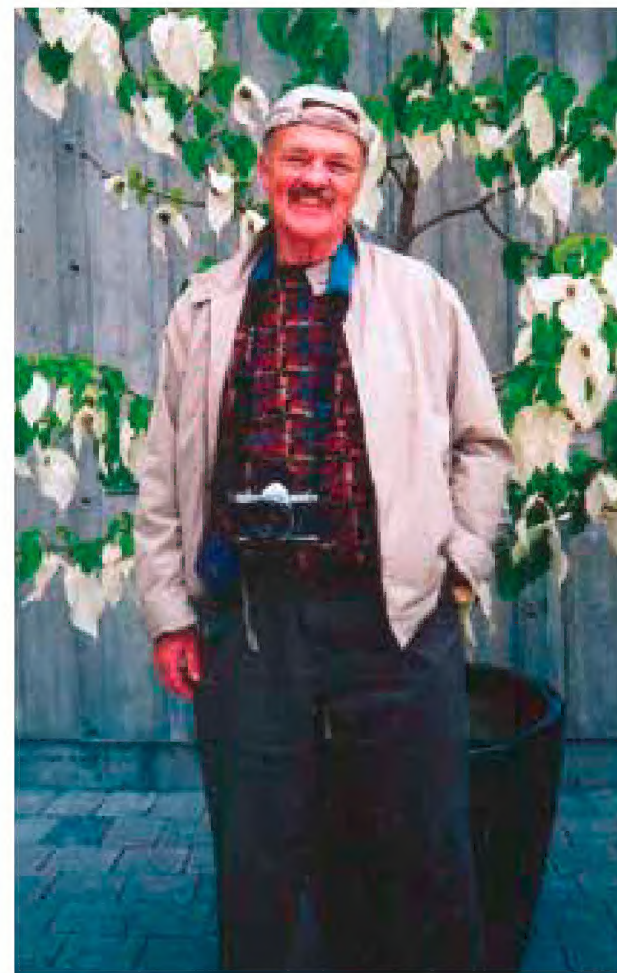




Photo: Paul Black

Anything Goes

'Anything Goes' (Hager, 1998)

Sometimes I tap Broadway for inspiration (and no I don't own tap shoes). It's an open secret among my friends and colleagues that I'm only two words and a cliché away from a theatre reference. Driving home after a long day at work, feet still vibrating from the jack hammers pulsing away in the basement of our building, I realized I respected the sentiment of the euphemism more than I realized.

As for the iris, 'Anything Goes' (Hager, 1995) seems to suggest that there's more to possibility than we sometimes wish to accept. The flower is noisily hafty, to its detractors, and splendidly celebrant to those who admire novelty. To put it another way, Jackson Pollock would have loved it and William F. Buckley would have hated it.

Novelty flowers push the envelope for good reason. As with most trends and fads, what starts at the fringes of interest can go viral in no time. The iris world has seen these evolutions in space-age irises, rebloomers and broken colors. What's next? Many of us attend conventions in pursuit of this answer, though sometimes coming away with a dissatisfying result. While we love the folks who labor to entertain us with flowers, we should give high marks to entertainment with a little substance. Do all irises have to be sitcoms—over and done with more emphasis on the advertising? Why not a good docudrama, the kind that drags on a bit too long, but remains juicily engaging until the very end? To be fair, I often settle for the irises akin to one-hour, in-depth interviews; something worth the extra attention. I suppose every iris at a convention can't overwhelm me, but it's the mediocrity and repetition that openly bores me. In essence, if anything goes, I'm glad there are a few duds in the lot if only for contrast. Maybe I'll look back on something I found unflattering in a few years and see it in a different light, something trendy before its time.

Anything really does go when it comes to iris conventions anymore. The dedicated troopers in Dallas who put on a precisely organized convention know this well. As they've planned not one, but two conventions they've encountered weather, the death of a dear friend and committee member, and who knows what else. I admire and commend them for their perseverance and passion in mounting a good show.

The Society for Siberian Irises and Species Iris Group of North America know that anything goes, so much so that when faced with an obscenely early spring last year, they opted to move back an already three-years-in-the-works convention to 2013. It was nothing short of a brilliant move—the bloom was some of the most abundant I have ever seen at an iris convention of any kind. Anything goes!

Well enough dithering with a Porter cliché. There's a great issue in the pages ahead.

Kelly

Connect with us!



Join the AIS crowd on Facebook!



editor@irises.org



Visit our website www.irises.org



Don't forget the blog!

<http://theamericanirissociety.blogspot.com/>

Did You Receive Your News & Notes?

Have you received your News & Notes, the new AIS member newsletter? It should have come in your email between July 2 and 4. If not, the membership secretary may not have a current email address for you. Contact Tom Gormley aismemsec@earthlink.net with your email address for this and all AIS electronic communication.

News & Notes will come about once a month with links to all types of iris information. We are sure there will be things you won't want to miss, and a summary at the beginning makes it easy to find just what you like. It is easy to unsubscribe at any time. We hope you will appreciate staying abreast of iris happenings and the ability to report your own iris news too. Suggestions for topics are welcome. Contact members of the PR committee to share news or for more information:

Robert Pries (robertpries@embarqmail.com)

Susan Grigg (irismom@nc.rr.com)

Wayne Messer (wrmesser@gmail.com) ♣

A Call to Rebuild the Beardless Iris Collection at Presby

In preparation for the 2016 AIS National Convention, George Boyce is leading an effort to rebuild the former Siberian and spuria iris collections at the Presby. Please send cultivars of historical merit and garden value to the address below.

George Boyce, AIS R3VP

Glenara Gardens

520 Dairy Road

Palmerton, PA 18071-5923 ♣

Missing TBIS Members?

If you signed up for a TBIS membership at the 2013 AIS Convention in Dallas, please reach out to Ramona Howard to confirm your membership status. Some of the membership forms were misplaced, and TBIS wants to ensure that any new members are signed up for the terms of membership they paid for. You can reach Ramona at rhoard3604@sbcglobal.net. ♣



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Request For Guest Beardless Iris

East We Go in 2016

2016 AIS Convention in Newark, New Jersey

The Essex County Presby Memorial Iris Gardens and The American Iris Society will host the AIS National Convention in May 2016. Convention attendees will tour five gardens in the mid-Atlantic region of the U.S. Master plantings will be established in two or more host gardens. Hybridizers of beardless varieties are invited to send rhizomes of recent introductions and seedlings under consideration for introduction. Please observe the following guidelines when sending guest irises as only officially submitted guest irises will appear in the convention booklet.

Up to four rhizomes of each variety will be accepted from September 1 through September 15, 2013. Please ship plants via postal service, UPS or FedEx to:

Linda Sercus
Presby Memorial Iris Gardens
474 Upper Mountain Avenue
Upper Montclair, NJ 07043

Contacts

Linda Sercus: linda.presby@comcast.net
George Boyce: glenara@aol.com

The name of the variety or seedling number should be clearly marked on each rhizome. In addition, the following information should accompany each variety on a separate packing list:

- Hybridizer's name and address
- Name or seedling number of the variety

- Type of iris (Siberian, Species, Spec-X, etc)
- Height, color, distinguishing features
- Year of introduction (if applicable)

The packing list should include the contributors email address to receive an electronic receipt. Absent of an email address a receipt will be mailed to all contributors.

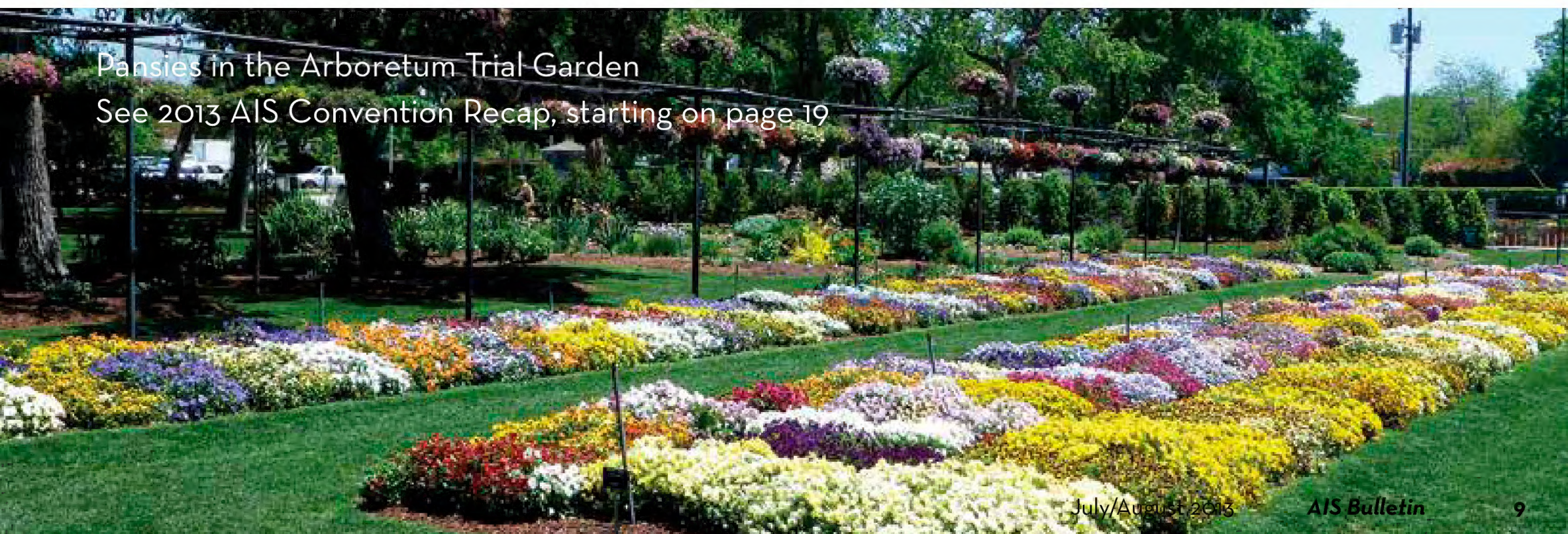
If a guest seedling is later named, it will be the responsibility of the hybridizer to notify the Guest Iris Chair of change. Updates should include name and corresponding seedling number.

Shortly before the convention, contributors will be asked for instructions regarding disposition of the plants. Failure to reply by April 1, 2016 will be interpreted as permission to destroy all seedlings, and distributed named varieties, one to each host garden and the rest as determined by the Convention Committee. *No rhizomes will be offered for sale on the internet or other means which compete with sales by the contributors.* Guest iris returned will be sent freight paid, except for foreign addresses.

The Convention Committee and the owners of the host gardens will strictly adhere to the Code of Ethics as printed in the AIS Convention Handbook.

The Convention Committee and host gardens will not be responsible for losses beyond their control. ♣

Pansies in the Arboretum Trial-Garden
See 2013 AIS Convention Recap, starting on page 19



Youth Views

BY CHERYL DEATON, CALIFORNIA

I had a wonderful time at the AIS National Convention in Dallas, Texas. There was only one youth member attending, at first—Faith Donnell from Odessa, Texas—but by Thursday another youth member, Michael Kowalchuk had signed up. Both were attending their first conventions and were accompanied by their grandmothers. You know, it was my grandmother who encouraged my interest in irises. I hope many grandparents will cultivate an interest in irises with their grandchildren.

At the Youth Reception, local AIS Youth members Claire and Alex Harding came along with their cousins from California—Sarah, Jessi and Ty Cawley. We had a good time getting to know Faith, who is in the 4th grade. Faith and her grandmother Maxie could not join me for the Youth Pizza Party on Thursday night, but Michael and his grandmother Nancy enjoyed pizza, wings and cheesecake. I had a piece of “Death by Chocolate” cake—everyone knows that there are no calories in convention food! Currently, Michael only grows one iris in his garden, but judging by the notes he was taking in the gardens, I think he will be adding a few more.

Unfortunately, none of the winners of the Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement were in attendance

at the awards dinner, but I was proud to announce Megan Pennington had won the award. Megan is 18 years old and lives in Region 18. First runner-up was 13-year-old Colin Campbell from Region 4. The second runner-up, Faith Winzer, was also from Region 18. Their awards were accepted by representatives from their regions.

I was also pleased to announce the winners of the Ackerman Essay Contest, sponsored by

different scents of iris make your garden smell really good; if I could have my way, every garden would have a whole bank of them; my family has been growing irises for over fifty years, and in the spring our yard is so beautiful because of their many different colors; I enjoy growing them because they are a very hardy plant. The winning essays will be published in a future issue of *Irises*. Congratulations to all our winning youth members.

How would you like to

“How would you like to earn an “Iris Youth Patch?” I am currently developing a new program that will allow our AIS Youth Members to earn a patch by completing some requirements.”

the AIS Foundation. This year’s topic was “What Makes Irises Outstanding Garden Plants and Why Do You Like to Grow Them?” In the senior category, ages 13 and up, Rachel Potter from Region 4 was the winner. From Region 17, Chelsea Curlee was the winner in the junior category, ages 12 and under. Some of the comments about the topic were—They make people happy; you don’t have to replant them every year because they grow back; the

earn an “Iris Youth Patch?” I am currently developing a new program that will allow our AIS Youth Members to earn a patch by completing some requirements. Details will be in the spring issue of the youth newsletter, *The Iris Fan*. The 2013 Coloring Contest picture will be coming out soon as well. Remember you can contact me at region15kids@outlook.com (new name for Hotmail) with your questions, ideas or contributions for our newsletter. ♣

Annual AIS President's Letter

June 14, 2013

JIM MORRIS, MISSOURI

Immediate past president Judy Keisling informed me that this is one of the requirements of the president's position. So this will be my first official annual letter to the AIS membership. Each year the terms of office expire for one third of the twelve directors of the American Iris Society, and four persons are elected to fill those positions. As provided in the AIS Bylaws, a five-member Nominating Committee recommends to the AIS Officers and Board of Directors a selection of candidates for nomination as directors. From this list the incumbent Board of Directors chooses by written ballot the slate of four candidates to be presented to the membership.

The Nominating Committee consists of five members selected

each year by their respective parent bodies to serve for one year: two directors selected by the Board of Directors; two RVPs selected by the Board of Counselors; and one section representative selected by the Section Advisory Board.

Approved during the 2013 spring meeting held in Dallas, TX, in accordance with the AIS Bylaws, the following four individuals are the 2013 nominees for regular three-year terms expiring in the fall of 2016.

Candidate #1:

George Boyce (Region 3)

Candidate #2:

Susan Grigg (Region 4)

Candidate #3:

Debra Strauss (Region 17)

Candidate #4:

Gordon Carver (Region 17)

The Bylaws provide that additional nominations may be made by any forty members, of whom not more than fifteen may be located in any one region. Such additional nominations must be received by the AIS Secretary on or before August 31, 2013.

Should additional nominations be made, a ballot on which all nominees are listed will be mailed on or before September 30, 2013, to all AIS members and must be received by the AIS Secretary or Election Committee (if one is appointed) on or before October 30, 2013. If there are no nominations in addition to those listed above, issuance of a ballot shall be omitted and the original nominees considered elected.

Jim Morris, President

AIS Insurance

BY MICHELLE SNYDER, INSURANCE CHAIR

Below are instructions for obtaining Certificates of Insurance when required by the venue where an event is being held. Please be aware I DO NOT obtain the certificates of insurance for the local clubs, etc. It is the responsibility of the club, etc. hosting the event to obtain the necessary Certificate of Insurance.

To obtain a Certificate of Insurance go the www.irises.org. Click on the Member Services link and then click on AIS Insurance and you will be taken to the page that has the instructions for obtaining the necessary Certificate. The form can either be downloaded and

faxed to the number shown or it can be completed electronically and sent via email.

There is a statement that says "Is Certificate Holder requested to be named as an additional insured?" If you only need to show proof of insurance, circle No. If the venue needs to be named as an additional insured, circle Yes.

As always, if there are any problems associated with obtaining the needed Certificate, or if you have any questions in general regarding insurance, please contact me at either 928-282-5867, or <sammygiz@aol.com>. ♣

Standards & Falls

COMPILED BY THE EDITORIAL STAFF

Noted Botanist Celebrates 100th Birthday

Dr. Georgy Rodionenko, noted iris taxonomist, celebrated his 100th birthday this year. Best known for his book *The Genus Iris*, the Russian botanist spent much of his career exploring and describing the iris species of Russia and leading efforts to preserve endangered species, successfully repatriating *Iris winogradowii* to one of the only two mountain tops on which it historically grew. AIS President Jim Morris sent this letter to Dr. Rodionenko on the occasion of his birthday. Rodionenko associate Nina Alexeeva was a special guest lecturer along with her husband at the 2013 AIS National Convention in Dallas, TX. ♣

*Jim Morris, President
American Iris Society
682 Huntley Heights Dr.
Ballwin, MO 63021 USA*

*Dr. George I. Rodionenko
197376, St. Petersburg, ul. Prof. Popov, 2.
Botanical Institute. VL Komarova RAS
Botanical Garden of Peter the Great
Russia*

March 25, 2013

Dear Dr. Rodionenko,

*Congratulations on your 100th birthday anniversary! You have reached this momentous attainment in life joining our own Helen Reynolds of El Dorado, Kansas who is well known for saving the Sass brothers hybridizing stock many years ago. You, of course, are well known to Americans for your publication *The Genus Iris* L., translated for the English speaking world by *The British Iris Society* in 1984. Whether known as iris, Russian "kasatik, petushok, or pivnik" the plant "whose flowers personify that most beautiful manifestation of nature — the rainbow — has served to bring us closer together."*

You may remember that my wife, Jean Morris, introduced you (through a translator) on your 82nd birthday in March 1995 to the attendees at Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, Missouri, where you attended and spoke to the International Symposium on Gardening with Iris Species. That was a personal honor to her and to me as well.

On behalf of the members of the American Iris Society we extend our best wishes on your personal centennial celebration.

*Sincerely yours,
Jim Morris, President
American Iris Society*

In this new, regular feature, the editorial staff has culled the iris world for the latest news and notable findings. Combining both Milestones and Section Happenings with the addition of a fresh-every-issue assortment of tidbits, Standards & Falls will channel what's hot in the world of irises, straight from the Internet to your coffee table.

Milestones

The American Iris Society is at the stage in its history (approaching 100 years) where we continue to lose some of our most stalwart members. We acknowledge the passing at this time of the following: Harry Turner of Snellville, GA, in Region 5; Walter Morley, of Hillview, OH, in Region 6; Jimmy Burch of Huntsville, AL, in Region 24; Margaret Sutton and husband George Sutton of Porterville, CA, in Region 14.

James Griffith Burch (1940 - 2012)

Jimmy, 72, as he was known by all his friends, was a life member of AIS together with his wife Betty who preceded him in 2009. Born on October 1, 1940 he passed on October 27, 2012. He joined AIS in January 1971, was AIS Membership Secretary from 1982-84 and on the AIS Board of Directors from 1980-86. He loved smoking cigars and hybridizing irises. He registered 21 irises, five being BBs, and introduced 19. He was awarded 5 HMs and one AM for his TB 'Frosty Jewels', his first introduction in 1979. It also was the President's Cup winner at the 1979 Huntsville AIS Convention. 'Miss Nellie', a BB, won an AM in 1987 and the Knowlton Medal in 1990. His last introductions were in 2006. He is survived by his daughter Elizabeth Carol Burch.



Harry Turner (1920 - 2013)

Harry Turner, 93, was as much an iris lover when he died on March 5, 2013 as ever. He was born in Atlanta, GA on February 10, 1920 and passed in Snellville, GA on March 5, 2013. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Juanita Turner; daughter and son-in-law, Shirley and Douglas Mills of Peachtree City; son, Kim Turner of Loganville; grandson, Turner Mills and his wife Crystal of Plainsboro, NJ.

Harry was a U. S. Navy veteran from 1942-1946. After serving his country Harry worked for the Atlanta Housing Authority for 39 years. An AIS Master Judge, he was a member of the Georgia Iris Society (GIS) for many years and was a keen show competitor winning many silver and bronze medals. He was also show

chairman often times through the years. He and his wife attended many AIS conventions and their garden was on tour for the 1992 Atlanta convention.

Turner hybridized irises and introduced 23 TBs from 1986 through 2010, the last few with Everette Lineberger as selector. He won only one HM—for 'Georgia Streaker' (2000) in 2004—yet he wanted some of his irises to be recognized as being from the south, the local area, and named for some of his benefactors. They included 'Margaret Mitchell' (2008), 'Southern Angel' (2002), 'Agnes Hale' (1986), 'Graystone' (1986), and 'Turner Mills' (1997). Diana Wright reported that when Harry was no longer able to show his irises, he donated most of his garden to the GIS and the Milledgeville Iris Society. His leadership will be missed by all in the Georgia Iris Society.

Walter Ernest Marley (1928 - 2013)

A U. S. Navy veteran, Walter, 85, was a supporter of his wife Sara's AIS involvement. He was born in Attica, NY on February 27, 1928 and passed on March 20, 2013. He and Sara met and married in 1949 and were active farmers known for Holstein cattle and quality eggs. They managed farms in Virginia where they were involved with the Angus breed of cattle, Cheviot sheep, and the American Iris Society for which Sara served as Secretary (October 1999 – December 2002) until they moved to Ohio in 2002. They were active members of Regions 2, 4 and 6. Walter was preceded in death by one son, Gregory. He is survived by his wife Sara; son Carl of Friendship, OH; and daughter Kathleen Marley, of Idaho.

Margaret I. Sutton (1935 - 2013)

Margaret Sutton, 78, passed away after a lengthy illness on April 23, 2013 in Visalia, CA. She was born on February 6, 1935, in Rochester, NY, lived much of her life in California, settling in Porterville in 1988.

Margaret was a musician with the rare gift of perfect pitch. She majored in sacred music at the University of Redlands and went on to become an organist in numerous churches. She served in this capacity at St. John's Episcopal Church in Tulare for more than twenty years.

She was the devoted wife of George Sutton for 56 years. Married in Redlands, CA in 1957, they lived in Rialto, moving to Ukiah, CA in 1963. There they raised three children, were active in the local swim club, and she was a substitute teacher for 15 years before returning to school to become an elementary band teacher. She was an organist, choir director and sang in local oratorios.

Margaret and George established the world-renowned Sutton's Iris Gardens where she was the office manager. Together they were instrumental in creating the Porterville Iris Festival. Margaret was a past RVP of Region 14, past treasurer of the Reblooming Iris Society and past president of the James Gibson Iris Society (JGIS). Her service was attended by current RVP John Pesek and wife Barbara, eleven members of JGIS and three members of the Fresno Iris Society. Margaret is survived by her son Michael Sutton and wife Connie of Exeter; daughter Peggy Vest and husband Dave of Redwood Valley and five grandchildren. She was predeceased by her daughter, Barbara Miranda.

George Sutton (1933 - 2013)

George Sutton, the founder of Sutton's Iris Gardens in Porterville, CA, died early Wednesday, May 30, 2013 following a long illness. He was 80 years old. His death comes just a few weeks after his wife Margaret died on the eve of the 15th annual Porterville Iris Festival in April that the Suttons played such a huge role in founding.

"George was a big champion behind the Iris Festival and celebrating the city flower," said Porterville Chamber of Commerce president and CEO Donnette



George and Margaret Sutton

Silva-Carter. "We're going to miss him as a friend of the community and as a friend," she added.

A graduate of UCLA, George was quite an athlete in his youth, once high jumping seven feet and playing baseball for six years in the Los Angeles Dodgers' minor league system.

Michael Sutton said that his dad went to an iris show in the 1970s when the family lived in Ukiah. George bought his first irises and entered the show the next year winning his first blue ribbon and was off from there. Sutton's Iris Gardens officially began in 1983 and the hobby grew into a commercial effort. By the time they moved to Porterville, Sutton's Iris Gardens was already well-known, but it went on to new heights with increased acreage (over 100 acres).

Porterville was known in the iris world because of Jim Gibson and his Dykes Medal winning 'Kilt Lilt' (1970)

in 1976. The iris was the city's official flower having been named such in 1963. But George went to an iris festival in Silverton, Oregon and decided that Porterville needed one as well. So the Suttons teamed with the Chamber in 1999 and began what became the city's signature event. In 2013 the festival drew more than 25,000 people to town. Both

the family business and the community benefitted.

As of this year the Suttons have introduced over 485 irises starting in 1987 with 'Orange Popsicle' (1987) when the garden was known as Green Thumber in Ukiah. The top AIS awards have eluded them thus far, but that gives Michael something to shoot for as he carries on the family iris tradition. ♣

Premio Firenze Winners Announced

The results are in from the International Iris Competition in Florence for 2013. The members of the jury were Milan Blazek (Czech Republic), Cy Bartlett (U.K.), Anne Bahrenburg Barbetti (Italy), Valeria Roselli (Italy) and Paolo Gambassini (Italy). The winners of the tall bearded competition are as follows.

- 1st Premio Firenze (Gold Florin) in memory of Prof. Renzo Ricci:
'Vento Di Maggio' (A. Bianco-Italy)
- 2nd Tuscany Region Prize: seedling AM-04/1734-5 (A. Mego-Slovakia)
- 3rd Silver Plate of the Industrial Organisation: seedling AM-05/1942-2 (A. Mego-Slovakia)
- 4th Italian Iris Society Medal 'Piero Bargellini': 'Blue Trill' (P. Black-USA)
- 5th Honourable Mention: 'Barbablu' (S. Gigli-Italy)
- 6th Honourable Mention: 'Vymarna' (S. Paolin-Italy)
- 7th Honourable Mention: 'Magnétisme' (R. Cayeux-France)
- 8th Honourable Mention: 'Nouvelle Vague' (R. Cayeux-France)
- 9th Honourable Mention: 'Calgary' (T. Johnson-USA)
- 10th Honourable Mention: 'Ballerina' (L. Montanari-Italy)

Special Prizes:

Provincia di Firenze Prize for the Best **Broken Colour Variety**: seedling AM-04/1611-3 (A. Mego-Slovakia)

Comune di Firenze Silver Plate for the Best **Red Variety**: 'Tramonto' (S. Gigli-Italy)

Chamber of Commerce Prize for the Best **Commercial Variety**: seedling AM-05/1942-2 (A. Mego-Slovakia)

Amici dei Fiori Prize for the Best **Italian Variety**: 'Vento Di Maggio' (A. Bianco-Italy)

Louise Branch Prize for the Best **Branched Variety**: 'Vento Di Maggio' (A. Bianco-Italy)

Florence Garden Club Cup for the Most **Original Colour**: seedling AM-05/1991-2 (A. Mego-Slovakia)

Perugia Garden Club Cup for the Best **Scented Variety**: 'Barbablu' (S. Gigli-Italy)

Rora and Luciano Bausi Prize for the Best **Blue Variety**: 'Agua Fresca' (Schreiner's Garden-USA)

Leila and Paolo Tarini Prize for the Best **Violet Variety**: 'Trautes Blue' (H. Moos-Germany)

Giorgio Saviane Prize for the Best **Early Variety**: 'Blush of Pink' (T. Aitken-USA)

Antonio Del Campana Prize for the Best **Late Variety 2012**: 'Dream Team' (T. Johnson-USA)

Laura Tancredi Prize for the Best **Pink Variety**: seedling AM-04/1734-5 (A. Mego-Slovakia)

Società Toscana di Orticoltura Prize for the Best **Border Bearded Variety**: 'Border Baby' (T. Aitken-USA) ♣



Gem State Iris Society

Idaho irisarian and judge Jeanette Graham regularly sends out iris updates from the Gem State, often including her superb photos as attachments. In May she reported that the Gem State Iris Society put on a successful show with Sharon Touchstone winning Best of Show with Rick Tasco's 'Absolute Treasure' (2006). Has your local affiliate put on a successful show or sale? Send your photos to editor@irises.org and you might see you club featured in a future Standards & Falls.



Section Happenings

Many of the societies published results of their 2012 popularity polls in recent editions of their bulletins and newsletters. In those same issues, most included the ballots for the 2013 polls. Deadlines and rules vary with societies, but please take the time to vote these ballots for those irises that you grow and love. It's a great way to make your voice heard and most also welcome your comments in addition to your votes.

Historic Iris Preservation Society

The program at the HIPS general meeting at the AIS convention in Dallas was given by Dave Silverberg and entitled "A Little Bit of History." Nancy Price put together a powerpoint presentation, and Dave is offering this program to those who are interested. Dave's contact information is 32009 S. Ona Way, Molalla, OR 97038 and email sil1812@molalla.net. This program is free upon request.

Reblooming Iris Society

The Spring 2013 issue of *The Reblooming Iris Recorder* continued its amazing array of irises featured in full color throughout the publication. In addition to regular area director's reports, two other articles are featured. Terry Aitken's article on "Exciting Rebloom in 2012" details rebloom and/or sequential bloom in 2012 in SDBs, IBs, BBs, TBs, Siberian and Japanese irises. And, for those growing MDBs and SDBs, Don Spoon's article on "Reliable, Cool Climate, Dwarf Bearded Rebloomers" is highly recommended. Both of these articles are well illustrated and offer some great choices of irises you may not have thought about for their reblooming or sequential bloom characteristics.

Society for Siberian Irises

The Spring 2013 *The Siberian Iris* is in full color with this issue for the first time. In honor of Dr. Georgy Rodionenko's 100th birthday, "Siberian Irises: A Botanist's View" (an article by Dr. Rodionenko written a few years earlier), is reprinted in this edition of *The Siberian Iris*. This article is a worthwhile read, and should appeal to all those interested in Siberian iris species and notes on their occurrences in their natural geographical range. Also, in the first installment of a reprise of the series "In Praise Of...", Bob Hollingworth describes the merits of

'White Amber' (Schafer-Sacks, 2001), and the article is followed by Marty Schaffer's hybridizer comments about this iris. An excellent start, and we are looking forward to future editions in this series.

Spuria Iris Society

The latest *Spuria News* was dedicated to Floyd Wickenkamp, who passed away in late 2012. Floyd was a well-known hybridizer, exclusively of Spuria irises, and introduced 20 irises over the years. His first introduction 'Son of Sun' won the President's Cup at the 1980 AIS Convention and the Nies Medal in 1994. Most of his irises are known by their "Sonoron" moniker, such as his last introduction 'Sonoran Nightfall' (R. 2003), reflecting his love for the Sonoran Desert.

The 2012 Spuria Popularity Poll results were released in this issue of the *Spuria News* as well. Votes for 77 different spuria irises were counted and votes were made for spurias as old as 'Premier' (Barr 1899) to recent 2012 introductions such as 'Ross Island' (Price, 2012). The top 27 varieties are listed, with Anna and David Cadd capturing 4 of the top 9 spots tying for most popular spuria irises, including their 2011 Nies Medal winner, 'Speeding Star' (2002). Another interesting read is Brad Kasperek's account of his spuria hybridizing and seed germinating efforts over the past year. Late news is that the Spuria Iris Society convention in the Los Angeles area has been moved to 2017, instead of 2016 as originally planned.

Society for Japanese Irises

The full color Spring 2013 issue of *The Review* was a welcome find in my mailbox. The cover features 'Coho', the 2012 Payne Medal winner, and inside is Chad Harris' interesting story of this beautiful pink, long-blooming, Japanese iris. Another article by Patrick Spence discusses "Japanese Iris Envy," the

mimicry by a few Siberian irises and even some TBs in having that look of a six falls Japanese iris. Interesting that Farr in 1922 even named a TB 'Japanesque' for that mimicry. The 2012 Popularity Poll is reported in this issue, and once again, 'Sue Jo' (2003) by Don Delmez heads the list. Other interesting reads are articles about "No Bee Pods Last Year" by John Coble, of Galesburg, MI, and a report on "The 2012 Season, A Not So Funny Thing Happened On the Way To the Garden," also by John Coble.

Society for Pacific Coast Irises

The membership of SPCNI is going more digital, at least pertaining to the growing numbers choosing to

receive *Pacific Iris*, the Almanac of the Society for Pacific Coast Irises, in digital format over paper. "Thirty-eight percent of SPCNI members receive digital *Pacific Iris*," according to Kathleen Sayce, membership chair of the society. Of the more than 40 new members joining the society in 2012, most joined via the website and more than half the time, new members are choosing to go digital. In other society news, the SPCNI website, www.pacificcoastiris.org was moved to a new server in early 2013 and a website revision is planned for 2013. Also in the works are "two new CDs, one with the first 40 years of Almanacs (1973-2012), and a second with digital scans of our books on PCI, including Cohen's and Lenz's papers." ♣



'Italian Affair'



'Star of the Morn'

Australasian Dykes Medal Winner Announced

Sharon Drinkwater reports that her uncle John Taylor has won his eighth Australasian Dykes Medal in 2012 with his Louisiana iris 'Italian Affair' (2000/01). Her father Graeme Grosvenor won the 2012 ISA Medal with his TB 'Star of the Morn' (2006/07). In Australia, irises are this family's affair. Flip back to the October 2012 issue of *Irises* for an in-depth report by Taylor of Grosvenor's hybridizing endeavors. ♣

Point of View

BY ROBERT PRIES, NORTH CAROLINA

Every so often I hear an experienced judge try to give a program on that something extra—the *je ne sais quoi* that's hard to quantify. I remember Glenn Corlew doing a judges training at a convention and attempting to talk about just that—that something extra not included in the scale of points assigned for judging irises. Sadly most people just did not get it. It seems that many judges need a cookbook to give them an exact recipe for judging an iris. The AIS has reinforced this lack of judgment, in favor of strict adherence to the “iris judge's bible”—the AIS Judges' Handbook. In an effort to make learning the task of judging easy, we have dumbed it down. Today it requires no sophistication to go through a point scale and enumerate the quality of an iris given the parameters of its class.

But this approach not only is an insult to the “Bible” (of which there are many translations), but an insult to judges and the public. Experienced judges do not need to point score every iris for which they vote. I often hear hybridizers say I know it's a bad iris, but I introduced it because the public wanted it. The AIS has from time to time dictated what the public should want. When this happens AIS loses. People grow in their gardens what they want to grow. If we are supposedly judging garden irises, then there needs to be consideration given to what the public wants to grow. In fact the real award perhaps should go to the iris that sells the best, not what judges say is the best. Of course we have little way of measuring that, so we settle with our present system.

I am not an anarchist. I am not suggesting we throw out our current system. It was a response to a time when judges were appointed by who you knew and not what you knew. I believe in a meritocracy. But I believe we should tone down the absoluteness. The idea of a judge, for example, carrying a yardstick to a garden or show and disqualifying irises based on height is abhorrent to me. Any iris can grow out of class given the right conditions, and the arbitrary assignment of sizes in our registry is essentially an anthropogenic argument with the natural world. At the very least a normal range should be assigned, not an absolute delineator. We also try to ignore regional differences, in spite of the fact that few irises thrive abundantly throughout the entire United States. Some that are extraordinary in one region may be duds in another. As the society approaches its centennial anniversary in a few years, you would we would have learned something about irises and would start applying that knowledge to the system used to judge them. ♣

Colorful display gardens were abundant at Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden

Photo: K. Norris



Conventions

2014: April 5 - 10, Dallas, Texas

2014 Convention Chair:

Bonnie Nichols, 3365 Northaven Road, Dallas, TX 75229

phone: (214) 352-2191 | e-mail: bjnhtn@aol.com

2014 Convention Headquarters:

Crowne Plaza Dallas (near the Galleria),

14315 Midway Road, Addison, TX 75001

phone: (972) 980-8877

2015: May 18 - 23 Portland, Oregon

2015 Convention Chair:

John Ludi, 35071 SE Hwy 211; Boring, OR 97009

(503) 668-9230; <kludi@juno.com>

2015 Convention Headquarters:

Red Lion Hotel on the River (Jantzen Beach, Oregon)

909 N. Hayden Island Drive; Portland, OR 97217

(503) 283-4466; www.Redlion.com/jantzenbeach

Fall Board Meetings

2013 Nov. 1 - 2: New Orleans, LA

Chair: Paul W. Gossett

1502 S. Boulder Ave #12B; Tulsa, OK 74119-4034

(918) 853-6204; <pwgossett@juno.com>

Headquarters: Doubletree New Orleans Airport Hotel

2150 Veterans Memorial Blvd.; Kenner, LA 70062; (504) 467-3111

2014 Nov. 7 - 8: Salt Lake City, UT

Chair: Paul W. Gossett

1502 S. Boulder Ave #12B; Tulsa, OK 74119-4034

(918) 853-6204; <pwgossett@juno.com>

Headquarters: Hilton Salt Lake City Airport Hotel

5151 Wiley Post Way, Salt Lake City, UT 84116, (801) 539-1515

Future Section Conventions

SOCIETY FOR LOUISIANA IRISES

Apr 4-6, 2014, New Orleans, LA

2015, Lafayette, LA

SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY

2016, Los Angeles, CA area

SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

July 2014; Victoria, BC, Canada



'Judy, Judy, Judy' (Hollingworth, 2010)



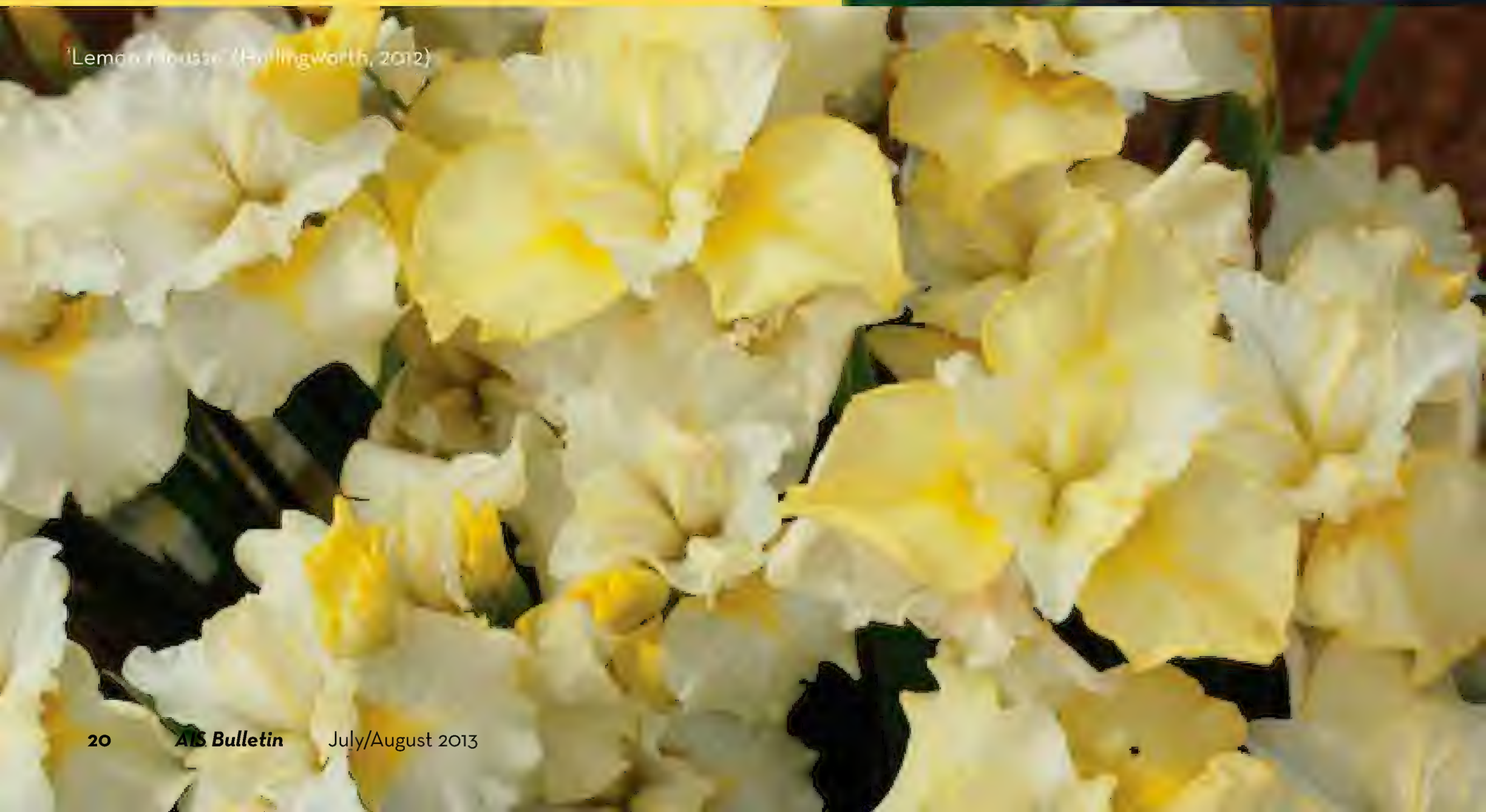
'Lakeside Ghost' (Harris, 2011)



'Painted Woman' (Schafer-Sacks, 2007)

Siberian Iris Convention

The Society for Siberian Irises held a very successful convention in and around Lansing, MI June 7 and 8, 2013. Here are just a few photos of some exceptional, four-year clumps that were at peak display. ❖



'Lemon Mousse' (Hollingworth, 2012)



'Pomegranate Punch' (Schafer-Sacks, 2010)



'My Girl Emily' (Cole, 2010)



'My Bubba' (Helsley, 2010)

The Medians of Superstition Garden

By Anita Moran, Maryland

Although Superstition Garden is best known for tall bearded irises such as Rick Tasco's 'Golden Panther' (2000), 'Splashacata' (1998), 'Dragon King' (2011), and Roger Duncan's 'Arctic Burst' (2008) and 'One More Night' (2010), there are other lines that show spectacular achievement. Rick and Roger graciously allowed me to visit their garden after the 2012 AIS National Convention in Ontario, California. Granted, the reason for the visit was to observe arilbreds, but with the medians in bloom, I could not resist taking a peek.

The median irises do well in the Mid-Atlantic states, and some of the best in my garden were hybridized by Rick Tasco. Although Rick sucked me in with his arilbreds and tall bearded, I have a great fondness for the little guys—border bearded, intermediate bearded, and standard dwarf bearded.

One striking median that has caught my eye since I first saw it was 'Sheer Excitement' (2012, BB). This was one of three special luminata medians I observed, including 'Sparkling' (2007, IB), and 'Backlit Beauty' (2010, IB). One of Rick's older SDBs 'Skysray' (1996) caught my eye because I have a seedling from it. This lined plicata with golden edging on the falls was not what I expected, having never seen it before. The buds were as tantalizing as the flower itself. Although there were other medians from other hybridizers, most of what I paid attention to were Rick's irises as they do so well for me in Maryland, no matter the class.

Rick's 'Hot Glow' (2006, IB) has done very well in exhibitions, and while I am not a yellow person, this flower glows no matter if it is on the show bench or in the garden. It truly draws you in and sets off darker irises as a counterpoint. Another IB I had not seen before visiting was Rick's 'Miss Mauve' (2000, IB). This softly colored and perfectly proportioned flower, aptly named, was offset with a bright pinkish orange beard. This is one that will definitely be finding its way to my garden. Both 2012 introductions, 'Dark Wonder' (BB) and 'Starfield' (IB) could not be more different. 'Dark Wonder' is a silky near violet black with great form and substance that is eye-catching with its dark violet beard to match. Since I have a particular liking for brown irises, 'Starfield' caught my eye with its color first. It pulls you in with its Splashacata-esque markings in chocolate offset with a light violet and brown beard, strong form with nice ruffling, and a wonderfully colored bud. There is just nothing to dislike about this flower.

In recent years I have added many of Rick's SDBs to my collection. Yes, I am on record as not being a "yellow" person; however, you just cannot ignore the four yellows Rick has put out in this class. 'Carmel Celeste' (2008), 'All Ruffled Up' (2011) and 'Southern Exposure' (2010) have all been added to my collection. All three of these irises have spectacular beards, form, and color. 'Southern Exposure' with its bright white background edged in bright yellow and matching, thick yellow beard was a needed addition. Although 'All Ruffled Up' isn't really yellow with its soft cream coloring, it is offset by a broad thick yellow beard and deep ruffling that I could not resist. 'Carmel Celeste' just had everything—from form, color clarity, and a thick beard that was a darker yellow tipped white as a focal point. Nice gentle ruffling add to a presence that cannot be denied. The fourth SDB yellow is 'Coyote Moon' (2012). It was showing off in a large clump with plenty of bloom and buds just waiting for their turn. It is a softer yellow with a bright yellow spot and white contrasting beard.

I added the SDBs 'Petite Ballerina' (2010) and 'Inner Space' (2009) to my collection. I had not seen them bloom until I was at Superstition. 'Petite Ballerina' is a strange plicata since, depending on the light, the ground color seems to change slightly. In the bright sunshine the ground is a stark white to set off the purple plicata markings; but, as your shadow moves over the flower, the ground appears to be more cream than white. It has great rounded form that showed excellent substance. 'Inner Space' is one of those flowers that is just too difficult to describe. The soft coloring is offset by peachy red on the interior of the standards and on the falls. A soft blue beard matches perfectly. This great little iris bloomed with profusion thanks to plenty of buds. I cannot wait to see this blooming in my garden. I hope it does as well.

There was a lot to see at Superstition. I wish I had more time when I was there. If you ever get the opportunity to visit, I give this warning: do not blame me when your wants exceed your budget. There are so many irises and it's difficult to choose a favorite or even a few favorites. ♣

Anita Moran is a dedicated iris grower and hybridizer. She can be reached at avmoran1@earthlink.net.



Images listed by row, left to right:
 'Hot Glow' (Tasco '06), 'Sparkling'
 (Tasco '07), 'Dark Wonder' (Tasco '12),
 'Starfield' (Tasco '12), 'Coyote Moon'
 (Tasco '12), 'Southern Exposure' (Tasco
 '10), 'Petite Ballerina' (Tasco '10), 'Sheer
 Excitement' (Tasco '11), 'Miss Mauve'
 (Tasco '00), 'All Ruffled Up' (Tasco '11),
 'Backlit Beauty' (Tasco '10)



Déjà vu Dallas 2014— Save the Date, Again!



BY BONNIE J. NICHOLS, TEXAS

I hope everyone had a wonderful iris season. On behalf of the Iris Society of Dallas we would like to thank all our iris friends who joined us for the national convention in Dallas this past April.

We enjoyed seeing our long time iris friends and made new ones along the way. The Iris Society of Dallas members have been busy planning the 2014 convention, and we are anxious to welcome you back to Dallas April 5-10, 2014. We have some exciting plans. You will not be disappointed. We have added a new tour garden south of the Dallas area hosted by the Johnson County Iris & Daylily Club.

You will see beautiful two and three-year clumps of irises. We appreciate how generous the iris hybridizers were to share their creations with us so we could grow them for you to see.

Please check our website www.irises-dallas.org for updates as we move closer to the 2014 convention. We will keep the same convention hotel, The Crowne Plaza Hotel in Addison. You may register with the hotel early. Please let the hotel know if you require a refrigerator and/or a special assistance room.

The early registration fee will be \$299. Registration forms will be posted on our website and also available in a future issue of *Irises*.

The countdown to 2014 begins... ♣

2014 Silent Auction Seeks Donations

We had a great time in Dallas, but it is already time to start thinking about next year. You may ask yourself, who comes to the AIS Silent Auction? People who love irises, iris books, décor, dishes, clothing, old iris catalogs and publications, autographs of hybridizers, Raisin' Region Baskets, and really iris anything. Regardless of what you bid on, all proceeds directly benefit The American Iris Society, while supplementing your obsession with all things iris.

As you go through your closets, garage, storage units, or basement, consider your fellow iris lovers and convention attendees in search of new treasures. You can mail your donated items to either of the Silent Auction coordinators listed here:

Nick Stewart
2808 NW 21st Place
Lawton OK 73505-2114
nicolstew7@yahoo.com

Debbie Strauss
2213 Hereford Blvd
Midland TX 79707-5012
dkstrauss@swbell.net ♣

Annette Brown Garden

BY ADAM CORDES, MICHIGAN

Annette Brown's garden was slated as one of our last destinations on the final day of guest garden bus tours. The deep blue waters of Lake Texoma caught our gaze as we rounded the bend to a lovely oasis of irises that awaited us in this northern-most garden of the convention. Annette's garden is a haven for Louisiana irises and considered to be one of the largest collections in north Texas. The neighbor across the road was willing to allow her the use of the yard for a nicely designed convention display garden. Here the plants were growing well and weed free, but were not quite to peak bloom.

Annette was quite an enthusiast for irises, and I was told that she had been growing them forever! Louisiana's were her passion, as well as any iris from Joe Ghio. The median collection in the private garden caught my eye as soon as I passed the fig tree that was waking up from its winter rest at the end of the drive. The well-established and healthy clumps filled almost every nook and cranny, but yet there was room enough for a visitor to pass in between. The SDBs and IBs were just finishing their display. Three in particular caught my attention—'Giggler' (Spoon, 2000), the ever famous 'Starwoman' (M. Smith, 1998) and an outstanding golden yellow SDB clump that I could not find a tag for. But it was the border bearded 'Border Guard' (Ghio, 2003) that caught my undivided attention. The clump had seven stalks with plenty of increase, and was just beginning to open its scrumptious flowers. Its cream standards were flushed rosy pink up the midribs and generously edged in lovely medium gold. The cocoa pink falls were matched with unobtrusive beards of the same color and, of course, graced with perfect ruffles!

Other standouts included 'Midsummer's Eve' (Spoon, 1996), another BB in the medium pink range with really great tangerine beards. President's Cup winner 'Notta Lemon' (Burseen, 2010) was a showstopper, with a full clump of tall, bright lemon yellow flowers with white falls banded lemon yellow. I wasn't homesick in this garden because 'Michigan Pride' (Berndt, 1976) was standing tall and proud with golden standards over maroon brown falls. 'Fiery Springs' (H. Nichols, 2013) was a brand new introduction all done up with very wide, ruffled clear lavender blooms with lighter fall centers and hot tangerine beards. Also blooming in the guest bed from Hooker was 'American Goddess' (H. Nichols, 2013) a seductive ruffled peachy pink TB with alluring tangerine beards—an iris performing well in nearly every guest garden on the convention tour.

My experience in Annette's garden wouldn't be complete without mentioning that she was not able to be present in person for me to compliment her hard work. Diagnosed with an extremely rare blood disorder and unable to recover even with excellent medical help, Annette left this world on March 2, 2013. The void impacted me the most as I admired the wonderful clumps of her treasured Louisianas, and saw 'Bound For Glory' (H. Pryor, 2000) blooming on the outskirts of the garden.

I would like to especially thank Annette's husband James for agreeing to keep this garden on the bus tours for the convention. We were all touched in some way by the cheer from Annette's irises, and her enduring love for the flower we so passionately admire. ♣

'Border Guard' (Ghio, 2003)

'Bound for Glory' (H. Pryor, 2000)

'Fiery Springs' (H. Nichols, 2013)



The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden

BY CAROLE BUCHHEIM, CALIFORNIA

Like a rare jewel set in the heart of the city, the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden scintillates with the beauty of paradise. Noted as one of the premier public gardens in North America, it has as its motto, “let nature nurture you.” Sixty-six acres of thematic gardens filled with vibrant color and stately trees along the southeast shore of White Rock Lake offer a wonderland to explore and discover.

Plans for a botanical preserve in Dallas began in the early 1930s when Everette DeGoyler chaired a committee to find a location. Who could have guessed that fifty years later the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden would be founded on his own property? In the late 1970s the 44-acre Nell and Everette DeGoyler estate and the adjacent 22-acre Roberta and Alex Camp estate were purchased and plans began to take shape. In 1984 the Arboretum opened its doors to the general public.

Each spring the Arboretum hosts the Dallas Blooms Festival, a six-week floral extravaganza with 450,000 tulips, daffodils, Dutch irises and hyacinths as well as 250,000 pansies, violas and poppies crowned with 3,000 azaleas in peak bloom. In this setting the Iris Society of Dallas prepared a Texas Hybridizer's Guest Iris Garden for our tour. Actually, there were two iris gardens, a bearded and a beardless garden with purposeful distance between for maximizing our exploration of the grounds during our two-hour stay.

The bearded iris garden was planted near a children's rustic frontier village of mini-playhouses. A rainbow of iris color welcomed us. Seventy-six tall bearded and four intermediate bearded varieties were planted two deep in front of climbing pink roses supported by a vintage post and rail fence. Eight Texas hybridizers were represented including Tom Burseen, Happy Carver, Vincent Christopherson, Wanda Dow, Bonnie Nichols, Hooker Nichols, Marge Powell and Leon Wolford. The majority of cultivars were the handiwork of Tom Burseen and Hooker Nichols. According to the AIS Check List (excluding 2013 introductions), Tom has introduced 382 irises and Hooker has introduced 209.

Of special interest was the reverse peach bitone TB 'Dorothy Devenport' (H. Nichols, 2003) named in honor of Bonnie Nichols' mother. On the inside cover of the 2013 Convention Book was a dedicatory page to Dorothy Russell Devenport who inspired Bonnie, the convention chairwoman, with a deep love for flowers and life.

Other beauties among the bearded guests were the violet-blue and cream washed amethyst 'Curtsy Queen' (Burseen, 2011), the pale blue and medium blue neglecta, 'Cowboy Mystique' (Wolford, 1985), the yellow ground cordovan/beetroot SA plicata 'Dragon Flight' (B. Nichols, 2003), the yellow-gold and white 'Notta Lemon' (Burseen, 2010) the creamy lemon and plum-purple variegata space ager 'Untamed World' (Burseen, 2011) and the light violet to white TB space ager named seedling 'Horns Up' (H. Carver, R.).

The beardless iris garden was near the Dallas Arboretum Trial Gardens where a myriad of pansies were in full bloom. Each year the Arboretum tests over 3,000 plants submitted for evaluation by more than 300 garden companies worldwide. Research is done to help identify varieties that will flourish under weather extremes and low-maintenance conditions.

Ten guest Louisianas were planted along with several spurias and tall bearded irises for added variety. Of the guest LAs, three were from Texas hybridizers Rodney Barton, Jim Landers and Hooker Nichols. Those in bloom included the lemon-lime 'Edna Claunch' (H. Wolford, 2007), the near black with gold dagger signals 'Dark Dude' (Betzer, 2010), the violet blue with yellow signals 'Lady of Lometa' (Landers, 2013), the pale greenish yellow 'First Lime' (Betts, 2008) and the lavender and yellow 'Lush Life' (Treadway, R.).

Festivals, special events, concerts, and educational programs for adults and children are planned each year with the changing seasons. The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden is a place to experience the beauty, joy, and wonder of nature. ♣



Photo: K. Norris

Clockwise from above:

'Lush Life' (Treadway, R.)

'Dorothy Devenport' (H. Nichols, 2003)

'Untamed World' (Burseen, 2011)

A view of the Jonsson Color Garden

All photos (except above): Carole Buchheim



The Tom Burseen Garden

BY ELLADAN MCLEESTER, WISCONSIN

Editor's Note: Elladan couldn't resist having a little fun with Tom's one-of-a-kind names. While normally we would identify every cultivar with a year of introduction, we opted to italicize them when utilized mid-sentence to help them stand out and leave the rest to your curiosity. Anything goes, right? We hope you'll enjoy this slightly off-beat editorializing. For more information about any of the varieties listed, search by name at wiki.irises.org.

I have long wanted to Sneak A Peak at Tom Burseen's garden. I grow many of his irises. They grow well for me and they always bring *Instant Smiles*. My heart did *Skip A Beat* to see his garden would be on the convention tour. I was sure that alone would be worth the *Air Fare*. A true *Pulse Rate Date*.

Some convention goers were *Pokin Around* his garden the day before the official tour and reported that it was *All Gussied Up* in *Full Swing Loaded* with *Full*

Blown Bubbling Angels. But *Sure Enuff*, the weather was *Behaving Bad* during the night. We woke to rain. Not *Silent Rain*, but a true *Cosmic Collision*. It was a *Scary* mix of strong wind and sheets of heavy rain, well beyond what even *Beefy* iris are expected to withstand. Luckily, the rain stopped by the time we arrived at the garden. The garden in general was *Clearly Dearly Done* with *Ample Charm*. The *Real Reality*—the irises had been *Slapped Crazy* by the storm. There were many *Pieces Of April* lying about *Every Which Way*. But then again with irises even *Dirty Is Purdy*. In spite of the irises being somewhat tattered and toppled by the weather, the host obviously was very excited to have us visit his garden. No *Pardon My Garden* here, just a great host *Treatinuright*. It was *Mind Boggling*, of course, that any any iris would be *Dad Gum Nice* after such a beating. But there were a few that were still *Awful Purdy* among the crowd.

This page, clockwise from below: Burseen garden; Tom Burseen and Paul Black; 'Maggie Beth' (Burseen, 2013)

Photo: K. Norris



Photo: K. Norris



Photo: Paul Black



‘Gloriafied Glenn’ (Burseen, 2012) was eye-catching in several places that it was blooming. It has white standards with gold edges over white falls heavily veined red purple and bright ruffled gold edges. ‘Girl Trouble’ (Baumunk, 2012) has lavender standards over white falls with a purple band and center line halfway down the falls. ‘Choreography’ (Hedgecock, 2011) is medium pink with darker shoulders. ‘Double Platinum’ (Ghio 2012) stood out in nearly every garden we visited. It has light shell pink standards over light pearl pink falls with a large biscuit splash on the shoulders. It is very nicely ruffled. ‘Notta Lemon’ (Burseen, 2010) was slightly toppled in this garden, but the flowers were still nice. The standards are lemon yellow-gold with ruffled falls that are white with yellow-gold edges. ‘Yalobusha Desert’ (Moore, 2011) looked nice with dark salmon pink standards infused mauve over salmon pink with lighter veined falls. ‘Trumped’ (Burseen, 2008) also was very nice in its home garden and several others. It has standards of white with a saffron base over plum falls with bronze hafts and a black center line. ‘Yeti Again’ (Kasperek, 2013) has nicely ruffled perky pink standards with a matching pink spot on deep red violet falls. Reports from the previous day raved

about the fantastic clump of ‘Judges Special’ (Burseen, 2012). It has white standards and fall edges of bluebird blue. One yellow and white seedling was still tall and smiling at us from across the garden. Wondering what could withstand such weather we made our way out to it. Trying to *Steer Clear* of the mud, we found it was a seedling marked #225, though I’m not sure if that was the seedling number or the location.

The beds were nicely laid out and the irises were well grown. Every bit of the yard was *Stuffed* with blooming iris. The front yard was filled with Burseen 2013 introductions and other *Recent Vintage* introductions. The backyard was about three times the length of a normal lot, giving lots of room for seedlings and the guest plantings. Beds beside the house contained more seedlings. Several of the paths were lined with cinder blocks filled with dirt and brimming with the youngest seedlings.

We had the *Braggin Rights* of being able get a *Different Take* of the garden a few days after the convention. It was good to see it *Smile At The World* and walk more closely among the *Futuristic Finery*. A good time to *Go Get Your Camera*. If you have the chance to visit Dallas during bloom season *Don’t Miss This* iris garden. It is really *Dallas Done Right*. ❖

This page, clockwise from below: Tom’s cinderblock containers full of new seedlings; ‘Judge’s Special’ (Burseen, 2013); ‘Girl Trouble’ (Baumunk, 2010)



Photo: Elladan McLeester



Photo: Paul Black

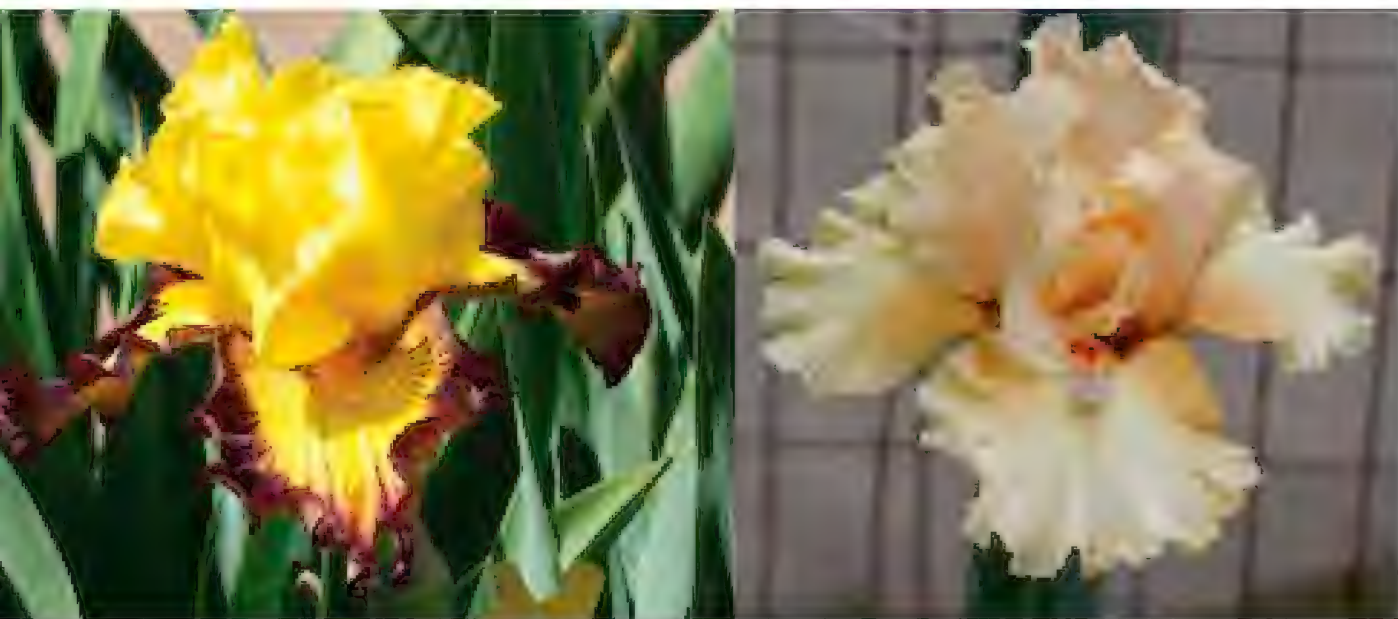


Photo: Elladan McLeester

Carvers Iris Hill Gardens

BY MARGARET KELLY, PEKIN, IL

'Snapshot' (T. Johnson, 2008); 'Roper's Revenge' (Burseen, 2008)



Gordon and Happy Carver say their garden will never be what Chandor Gardens is—Chandor Gardens is a 3.5-acre private botanical garden located in Weatherford, Texas. But while Iris Hill started as a somewhat barren, cactus dotted hill with no topsoil, it's evolved into a lovely terraced garden with great views and well-grown irises. The Carvers bought their three acres in 1995 and immediately started making iris beds. Their home was finished in 1999. Most of the irises they have in their private collection were removed from their railroad tie beds and potted to make room for the convention irises. More beds will be built for irises as soon as the rabbits do their part. The irises are planted in alphabetical order by type. There are signs by the beds indicating which irises are 2013 or 2014 convention irises and which are in their private collection.

The show rabbits that they raise have done their best to provide soil amendments. They have approximately 100 rabbits; a herd made up of Flemish Giants (the big 20-pound rabbits), Satins, and Californians. Their grandchildren Alex and Claire Harding's rabbits also live at Iris Hill. Their mixed flock of chickens keeps them and a lot of friends in fresh colorful eggs. They also have three cats and two dogs, two Australian Shepherds named Ida Mae and Shadow. Shadow was Alex's Diabetic Alert Service Dog. She is now retired.

After driving over 800 miles to Dallas to attend the convention, we were looking forward to the garden visits. The evening before the garden tours, Mother Nature decided Texas needed rain! It rained all evening, night, and morning up until we arrived at the Carver Garden. Not only did Mother Nature send rain, she sent gusty winds as well. When we boarded the tour bus at 6:30 a.m. on Thursday, the temperature was in the 40s and it was rainy and windy. Our trip to the Carvers Hill Iris Garden took about an hour and a half and by that time the rain stopped, but not the wind. As our bus arrived at the garden, we were given the option to either walk the sloping driveway or take the golf cart to the top of the hill.

Standard, tree-form Knock Out® roses were planted along the driveway, a great test to their claim of growing anywhere. We were directed to the garage for snacks, a wide variety of goodies including biscuits and gravy, and hot coffee. Once warmed up, we zipped up our coats and jackets and put up our hoods for protection from the weather. Our first stop was the tall bearded beds. The plants appeared healthy, had good increases and many bloom stalks. Despite the rain and wind, we could get an idea of which varieties had texture, substance, and durability. Here are a few irises that caught my eye.

'Monday Morning Blues' (Van Liere, 2012) is a striking beautiful medium blue flower. 'Nth Degree' (Burseen, 2011) is an unusual flower form of light violet blue with huge double uplifting pompoms infused violet, very flared and lacy. 'Moonlight and Wine' (Moore, 2008) sported lovely two-tone yellow and wine red flowers with yellow beards. SDB 'Little Nugget' (A. Sutton, 2011) is a nice little dwarf with yellow standards, diamond dusted with white falls, yellow and lavender veining, yellow border, and white beard. 'Gordon Rules' (Burseen, 2001) is named in honor of Gordon Carver and features beautiful pink flowers with red beards and long hairy red purple horns. A heavily ruffled and laced space ager! 'Snapshot' (Johnson, 2008) boasted striking yellow blooms with mahogany red around a large yellow center area with yellow-orange beard. 'Summer Shadow' (Keppel, 2010) has sharp chrome yellow flowers with warm brownish rose marginal bands. Tom Burseen's 'Ropers Revenge' (2008) is an outstanding space ager with light peach flowers and hafts brushed apricot, creamy beards and light peach flounces, abundantly ruffled and laced.

Next we visited the beardless irises planted in blue tubs lining the driveway. We noticed 'Cajun Serenade' (H. Nichols, 2008) blooming violet with deeper veining, edged in white with a yellow signal. We also noticed an arilbred blooming in one of the tubs—'Galilee Shores' (Chacon, 2010)—with light violet standards, bronze-veined falls in maroon with a complementing maroon-black signal and brown beards.

Back down the hill to the busses we went, taking respite once on board to warm-up and get away from the wind. We appreciate all the hard work that went into this garden and the opportunity to visit. ♣



Angel Iris Farm

BY JEAN RICHTER, CALIFORNIA

During this year's AIS convention in Dallas, Texas, I had the pleasure of visiting Janice Thompson's Angel Iris Farm. Janice was one of the tour gardens for the convention and also has extensive historic iris plantings. Her interest in historic irises has also led her to serve the Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS) in a number of capacities over the years. Since the hustle and bustle of a convention garden tour often doesn't leave enough time to view everything or photograph at one's leisure, Janice generously allowed me to visit her garden a few days before the convention tours began. Although it was somewhat early in their bloom season, there were a number of intriguing irises to view, both old and new.

First, a recap of some of her notable historic iris. 'City of Lincoln' (H.P. Sass, 1936) was a garden standout with its bright yellow and red colors. Another Sass iris was a special treat for me as I had never seen it before: 'Blue Lad' (Sass, 1946), the sibling to 'Blue Shimmer' (Sass, 1941). Unlike its more famous sibling (a light blue plicata), 'Blue Lad' is a lovely dark blue self. Unfortunately the brisk Texas winds didn't allow me to take a deserving picture of it. Needless to say, Angel Iris Farm sits atop a hill, and catches its share of windy days. I also enjoyed seeing a personal favorite of mine, 'Demi-Deuil' (Denis, 1912), undeservingly put on the AIS

Black List in 1925. It was a pleasure seeing 'Don Quixote' (Mohr-Mitchell, 1927) as well.

Janice also grows several beautiful unknown historic irises—a purple bitone that I couldn't provide much help in identifying and a large stand of a small pink/lavender variety that I thought might be 'Rheingaupele' (Goos & Koenemann, 1920).

In preparation for the AIS convention, Janice built a large number of new iris beds to host the guest plants. There were treats to see among the modern irises as well. I was particularly pleased to see arilbred irises in bloom, including Lowell Baumunk's 2010 introduction 'Xerxes' and Paul Black's 2011 OGB- introduction 'Flecks and Specks.' Another 2010 iris of note was Mike Sutton's 'All Smiles,' a sunny combination of yellow with white accents. Mike had several 2010 introductions in good bloom in this garden, including 'Bottle Rocket' with its fresh combination of peachy yellow standards and veined ruby red falls. Another striking iris was Fred Kerr's 2011 introduction 'Bohemia After Dark,' with strong contrast between its light standards, deep dark falls, and bright red beard. Medians made their mark as well, including Marky Smith's lovely pastel IB 'Aeolius' (2012). There were some historic irises in the convention plantings as well, such as Dave Niswonger's 'Lilac Treat' from 1970. ♣

Left: 'Flecks and Specks' (Black, 2011)

Right: Janice Thompson in her garden

Photos: Bonnie Petheram

Town of Addison Garden

BY KELLY NORRIS, IOWA

This unique city owned garden space was the brainchild of Bonnie and Hooker Nichols, though generously supported by head caretaker Michael Reed and countless other members of the Iris Society of Dallas. Strolling through this urban garden, just a short walk from the convention hotel, I was reminded of a question I've asked myself a lot lately—where for art thou clumps? Surely, it's been a difficult few years, drought and all, leading up to this convention. Nobody questions the immaculateness of the beds—pristine, well-groomed and maintained. No, my question is for the hybridizers (though I asked it of the plants)—where for art thou clumps?

Surely there were many flowers that caught my eye. Paul Black's 'One of A Kind' (2010) shouts for attention, sporting such sultry colors to warrant close inspection. Fred Kerr's 'Bohemia After Dark' (2011) couldn't have a more perfect name, evoking a twilight hour in a part of the world I yearn to visit. 'Double Platinum' (Ghio, 2012) probably had the best formed flowers of any varieties in the garden, wide at the hafts, amply ruffled, and well-rouged in a confectioner's blend of bubblegum pink and sugary lavender. 'Dancing Star' (T. Johnson, 2009) was blooming generously from a few increases, a clean amoena with a starburst fall pattern.

But varieties that stood out among the lines of neatly rowed plants were those that offered more than a few show-worthy stalks—the clumpers we will call them, even if they lack some of the esteem of their neighboring bedfellows. As hybridizers and judges, regardless of climate and the litany of other challenges that gardeners

in a modern era must suffer through, we owe it to our craft and passion to consider the value of hardworking perennials that clump effortlessly and reward generously with flowers.

Though I wish it glowed more, the pale cantaloupe presence of 'American Goddess' (H. Nichols, 2013) did enough to capture my attention, if mostly for the plant's vigor. In the same color range, but with more vividness is 'Coral Dancer', Francelle Edwards' 2010 introduction that earned lots of attention at last year's 2012 AIS Convention in California. Its color is delicious and readily enjoyed from well-budded stalks. It leaned a bit in this garden, but then again it might have been pulling off a ballet move in slow motion per its name. Another iris known for pallor—'Easter Candy' (Keppel, 2011). But what it lacks in vividness, it makes up for in garden presence. Like it or not, you can't help but notice a clump when you come across it, and I have no doubt it will go down as a garden iris of merit.

Fred Kerr's 'Greatest Show on Earth' (2010) also never goes unnoticed. Satiny black falls along with salmon standards and a bold haft flash make for an impressive floral display. Stalks were roaming a bit—an unfortunate byproduct of the sheer volume of flowers and branches.

'Oceanside Sparkle' (Ernst, 2011) earns top honors for huskiest clump in the garden. Woof. Plants galore, stalks aplenty, and flowers just starting to open. I wish I was more smitten with the pattern—been there done that? I can't fault the flowers for having lilt—on the hot, windy afternoon of my walk, they were holding strong in spite of the weather. ♣





Previous page:

The Town of Addison Garden

This page, left to right, top row to bottom row:

'American Goddess' (H. Nichols, 2013)

'Bohemia After Dark' (Kerr, 2010)

'Easter Candy' (Keppel, 2010)

'Coral Dancer' (Edwards, 2010)

'One of a Kind' (Black, 2010)

'Double Platinum' (Ghio, 2012)

All photos: Kelly Norris



Clark Garden

BY PAUL BLACK, OREGON

Some 80 miles west of the convention hotel is the garden paradise of Max Clark, uncle of Hooker Nichols.

Flags flying half-staff at the entry reminded us of the Boston Marathon tragedy and the healing effect such a garden can have after such an event. The garden, which is tucked away among the native woodlands between Weatherford and Mineral Wells, Texas, is the botanical masterpiece of Max and Billie Clark. Billie's insightful vision for the property continues and expands with the spirit and love she had for the property while living. In 1999, Max and Billie donated 143 acres, including the gardens, to a nonprofit trust. The gardens are a working model of beautiful and sustainable landscapes for hotter, drier climates.

The Clark Garden has been a tour garden for two previous AIS national conventions. Given enough time and reasonable weather, one could stroll down memory lane viewing irises left and maintained after these previous conventions.

I mention the weather since its influence was evident at this convention. It was obvious that what nature gives, nature can take away. When I arrived it was 89 degrees and humid. Having lived most of my life in Oklahoma and now living in Oregon, I don't miss that. The night before tours the temperature dropped to 58 degrees. Extremely heavy thunderstorms moved through, devastating and disheveling flowers. With that sort of temperature gradient, I'm surprised there wasn't hail or even worse, tornados.

Irises in the Clark garden were grown to perfection. Foliage was tall, robust and healthy. Lack of bloom in a number of clumps and distorted stalks gave evidence of earlier hard freezes while stalks were forming. As if nature hadn't contrived enough mischief, on the day of the tour we were greeted by fiercely cold winds that most weren't prepared for. Having lunch in the big pavilion with large, free-standing gas patio heaters was an unexpected sight for the middle of April in central Texas. Knowing I needed to assimilate as much information as possible for this article about the guest irises, I dutifully braved the weather and tried to make notes with pages of my notebook flapping wildly. With fingers turning blue, I scribed my notes which anyone seeing them would assume had been written by a medical doctor. Taking pictures—well, that was asking the impossible.

Now that you've listened to all my whining, let me tell you about a few of the varieties that were giving a command performance in the face of adversity.

To lift the spirits there was 'All Smiles' (M. Sutton, 2010), a bright medium yellow with a big quarter moon white smile in the lower two-thirds of the fall. It was performing well in other gardens, too. Tall and well-branched, 'Subtle Beauty' (Tasco, 2011), was standing proud against the wind. Standards are light creamy tan flushed mid violet to complement mid violet falls. 'Celtic Woman' (Aitken, 2009), showed its ability to persist and thrive where many other plicatas would have said goodbye. Soft pink standards are cradled by wide, ruffled white falls with pastel magenta plicata bands. A quartet of John Painter's creations was putting on quite a show. The easily recognizable purple and white broken color 'Splatter Matters' (J. Painter, 2010) stood tall and proud. 'Spice Trader' (J. Painter, 2010) showed the same sterling qualities that made it a hit at the 2012 AIS Convention in California. It is vibrant metallic bronze gold with falls washed darker and upper third of standards being darker topaz brown. 'Mad World' (J. Painter, 2011), is rich Indian red with orchid violet fall centers. To complete the quartet is 'French Lavender' (J. Painter, 2011). Big smoky lavender flowers are heavily ruffled and adorned with a wide laced plum band and carried on strong show stalks.

Compared to the Victoria convention where medians were the stars, medians here were rather far back in a supporting role. There were several that were worthy of note. Winner of the Ben R. Hager Cup was the BB 'Boy Genius' (Ghio, 2012) with bright gold standards flushed



'All Smiles' (M. Sutton, 2010)

mahogany. Heavily ruffled gold falls are washed dark mahogany overall and accented with bright yellow beards. In stark contrast was 'Birds and Bees' (Black, 2011), the pastel short violet IB with darker fall spots that was runner up to 'Boy Genius' for the Hager Cup. 'Frisly Molly' (K. Fisher, 2011) a slate lavender violet MTB was putting on a lovely show. Lynda Miller's BB seedling 1708 earned high marks. The clump was filled with many well-branched and budded stalks. Smoky violet standards and medium purple falls sported fuzzy bronze beards. The MTB 'Speckled Spring' (S. Markham, 2011), created a softer look with pastel lavender standards and white falls speckled mid violet overall. Another lovely MTB plicata was Mike Zuraw's seedling, Z0631. It is a more traditional violet and white plicata with darker center stripe down falls. IB 'Soleil' (M. Smith, 2011) shown like a beacon with myriads of well-formed, blazingly bright medium yellow-gold flowers. This is the third convention at which I've seen arilbred 'Xerxes' (Baumunk 2010) strutting its stuff without regard to adversity. Mid-lavender standards top tan falls washed brown red and marked with small maroon signals. The IB 'Eyedazzler' (Filardi, 2009) was just that. This purple and cream to peach luminata had ample buds and branches.

Now back to the big guys that were still holding sway against the wind. Francelle Edwards seedling 76-25C was showing off its lacy salmon blooms with subtle apricot edges. 'Desert Sonata' (Edwards, 2010), was outstanding in several of the gardens including Clark's. These amply ruffled flowers have peach standards and bands on white falls. Others that caught my attention were 'Baltic Sea' (T. Johnson, 2008), a heavily ruffled darker blue and 'Private Eye' (T. Johnson, 2010), with pale orchid standards and starkly contrasted dark burgundy falls and amazing near black beards. If you want your flowers huge then 'Magheralin' (Richardson, 2009) should be on your list. Flowers are purple with blue beards. Alton Pyburn seedling J.S-05-121-A formed a massive clump that was covered in bright gold bitone blooms. Steve Poole seedling GG-2-21, was impressive for a ruffled pink, producing a healthy clump filled with show stalks. Good stuff indeed.

Several Ghio irises were showing off. 'Smart Money' (Ghio, 2010) is a bright, sunshiny yellow and white combination. Engagement Ring (Ghio, 2011) and 'Day on the Bay' (Ghio, 2012) are very similar. Heavily ruffled blossoms have pale yellow

standards topping white falls widely banded rosy orchid. The ghostly 'Haunted Heart' (Keppel, 2010) was several shades darker in Texas than in Oregon but still elegantly beautiful. Mid-pinkish gray falls are veined darker with standards being a few shades lighter. No written description can convey how beautiful it is. 'Reckless Abandon' (Keppel, 2010) is just the opposite of subtle. White standards have bright yellow centers and veining over upper third, then banded darker gold. The white starbursts on near black falls accent the yellow beards. 'Great Balls of Fire' (Aitken, 2011) is a slightly darker and smokier version of the vibrant orange and yellow blend, 'Chariots of Fire' (Aitken, 2000).

The bright and lacy, 'Fallalery' (B. Johnson, 2010) again showed why it is so popular. 'Ferragosto' (Montannari, 2009), an Italian creation, created a bold statement with orange standards and yellow falls blended orange toward their edges. Larry Lauer's 2012, 'Lady Leigh', is an excellent attempt at a red amoena—warm white standards and rosy red falls. 'Dakota Smoke' (Schreiner, 2008) has been a consistent performer in Oregon and continued that performance in Texas. This eerie creation has smoky violet standards infused claret and velvety falls are blends of charcoal magenta and purple. Schreiner's 2009 'Salzburg Echo' was also putting in a strong performance. Vibrant mid-marigold centers of cream standards echo the more heavily saturated marigold falls and were supported by strong show stalks. 'Sheila Van Hook' (J. Van Hook, 2009) was a tall and imposing purple black bitone from half plicata parentage. Tom Parkhill's bright mid orange 'Volunteer Pride' (Parkhill, 2005) turned heads.

'Loving Pink' (D. Spoon, 2008) was a vision of loveliness on the order of the popular 'My Ginny' (D. Spoon, 2000). Lacy mid-lavender violet falls are graced by mid-pink standards. A trio of Thomas Johnson's creations were spending their time in the spot light. 'Ink Patterns' (2007) is a popular blue and white stitched plicata. 'Dancing Star' (2009) featured dark blue purple purple falls with white standards and starburst around yellow beards. The clump was filled with lovely show stalks. One of the brightest creations was 'Sordid Lives' (2009). White standards shine above magenta and rose washed and mottled, heavily ruffled falls. Lowell Baumunk's 2009 'Point Counterpoint' produced a large healthy clump filled with nicely branched stalks. The white with peach haft glaciata, 'Johnny's Opal Angel' (Christopher,

2010) showed that glaciatas can have great branching and buds. The clump of 'Mayan Mysteries' (VanLiere, 2012) would be the envy of anyone entering an AIS show. The clump was healthy and filled with multitudes of show stalks. Standards are medium gold. Wide, ruffled falls have vibrant rusty copper hafts transitioning to medium gold wedges and then darker rusty copper over the lower halves of falls. To add a bit more color is a bright red violet flash at ends of marigold beards. And last but not least is 'Trumped' (Burseen, 2008), which was seen looking great in most of the gardens. I'm sure there will be a picture in this issue so I won't have to try to describe it.

After braving the elements, we headed back to the hotel. Such a long trip might have been used to snooze a little, but between the bus captain distributing with one bus prize announcement after another and the noisy bunch at the back of the bus, everyone was kept alert and wide-eyed most of the trip.

Many thanks are given to the garden owner and helpers of this beautifully executed and maintained garden. What a delight it will be to return next year to experience all these irises in three-year clumps. If only nature will cooperate, it will be an outstanding exhibition of irises. ♣

Clockwise from top right:

'Boy Genius' (Ghio, 2012); 'Ferragosto' (Montanari, 2009);
'Trumped' (Burseen, 2008); 'Frilly Molly' (Fisher, 2011)

All photos: Kelly Norris



The Nichols Mesquite Garden

BY KELLY NORRIS, IOWA

The Nichols Mesquite Garden, located adjacent to Jim Begley's home and yard, is home to the Nichols' individual hybridizing efforts and several hundred irises for both the 2013 and 2014 conventions. Additionally, several hundred first-year Louisiana seedlings grow here as well as reselects from Hooker and Bonnie's respective bearded hybridizing programs. Driving up to the garden, its full sun exposure reminds me that in Texas thriving plants have to withstand an onslaught of surprise weather, sustained summer heat and endless rays of direct sun.

While bloom proved a bit elusive in this garden, possibly due to its exposure and an errant late frost during flower stalk development, three cultivars were notable standouts for their clump effects. 'Good Point' (M. Sutton, 2009) justified its name—a few stalks of nicely formed, space-ager flowers stood out in sunset bicolors somewhat reminiscent of its pollen parent 'Tropical Delight' (M. Sutton, 2002), though tending brighter and bolder. 'Sheer Excitement', Rick Tasco's 2011 BB introduction, filled out into an abundant clump here as it did in several gardens. Flowers and stalks are notable for their proportionality, a stricture that seems to elude many new introductions. It's an amethyst luminata with white veins emanating from a yellow-cream center at the beards, themselves orange-yellow exclamation points. Hooker Nichols' 'American Goddess' (2013), a peachy TB, bloomed very well, a refrain I heard from other attendees after the first day of tours. This Texas goddess continues a trendy fascination with pink, peach, and amber-blended flowers, all of which I seem to gravitate too, especially when they don't fade in the sun. Holding true to its Texas heritage, 'American Goddess' is most certainly sun-fast.

Despite a paucity of iris bloom, Texas natives growing wild in the fields nearby proved colorfully entertaining. I nearly tripped over a delightful clump of blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium*), which I wasn't able to accurately identify out to one of the fourteen species native to the state. Fields on both sides of the road sported bright drifts of a classic April combination in central Texas—bluebonnets (*Lupinus texensis*) and Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja coccinea*). ❀



Silent Auction Raises \$5,000

BY DEBBIE STRAUSS AND NICK STEWART

The AIS Silent Auction would like to give a big thanks to everyone for making this annual fundraiser a huge success—we raised over \$5000 for AIS. First, a large thank you to Region 17, all their members and workers for hosting the wonderful AIS National Convention in 2013! Second, we would like to thank all the bidders for their diligent efforts to win the item of their hearts desire. Third, we would like to thank everyone who donated their wonderful treasures so others could enjoy them.

We would like to congratulate all the regions who made such imaginative and exciting Raisin' Region Baskets full of unique and desirable goodies. We appreciate all the efforts put into getting the baskets together. It was fun and educational to see where each region was and what unique items each region brings to the table. The following regions participated:

Region 1 – Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Newfoundland/Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick & Prince Edward Island – RVP Norine Veal
Region 7 – Made two – Kentucky & Tennessee – RVP Sue Ann Barnes
Region 8 – Minnesota & Wisconsin – RVP Carol Jo Shonka
Region 9 – Illinois – RVP David Kelly
Region 10 – Louisiana – RVP Ron Killingsworth
Region 11 – Montana, Idaho & Wyoming – RVP Angelique Violette
Region 13 – Washington & Oregon – RVP Dwayne Booth
Region 17 – Texas – RVP Gordon Carver
Region 18 – Kansas & Missouri – RVP Ginni Hill
Region 22 – Oklahoma & Arkansas – RVP James Bledsoe
Region 23 – Made two – New Mexico – RVP Frances Day

Top 15 Irises from the 2013 Convention

'Notta Lemon' (Burseen, 2010)
'Double Platinum' (Ghio, 2012)
'Bohemia After Dark' (Kerr, 2011)
'Bottle Rocket' (M. Sutton, 2010)
'Trumped' (Burseen, 2010)
'Center Ice' (Ghio, 2010)
'Jeanne Clay Plank' (Kerr, 2010)
'Boy Genius' (Ghio, 2012)
'Greatest Show on Earth' (Kerr, 2010)
'American Goddess' (H. Nichols, 2013)
'Oceanside Sparkle' (Ernst, 2011)
'All Smiles' (M. Sutton, 2010)
'Birds and Bees' (Black, 2011)
'Easter Candy' (Keppel, 2010)
'Fiery Springs' (H. Nichols, 2013) ♣

2013 Convention Awards

PRESIDENT'S CUP

'Notta Lemon' (Burseen, 2010, TB)	43 votes
'Trumped' (Burseen, 2008, TB)	29
'American Goddess' (H. Nichols, 2013, TB)	16

FRANKLIN COOK CUP

'Double Platinum' (Ghio, 2012, TB)	26 votes
'Bottle Rocket' (M. Sutton, 2010, TB)	16
'Bohemia After Dark' (Kerr, 2011, TB)	13

BEN HAGER MEDIAN CUP

'Boy Genius' (Ghio, 2012, BB)	22 votes
'Birds And Bees' (Black, 2011, IB)	21
'Holiday In Mexico' (Probst, 2012, MTB)	20

Photos, clockwise from top left: John Ludi receiving the AIS Distinguished Service Medal; Judy Keisling and Jill Bonino after receiving their Distinguished Service Medals; Tom Burseen receiving the President's Cup from AIS Awards Chairman Gerry Snyder; Special guest lecturer Nina Alexeeva and her husband Igor after her program during the SIGNA meeting.

But without the donors of these wonderful items, the silent auction wouldn't even exist. This special group of irisarians is the most dedicated, lovely group of people in our iris world. This year, the hybridizers and their supporting gardens donated nearly 90 plants, mostly 2013 introductions. We received the gamut of bearded and beardless irises. If you won a wonderful iris in the bidding, please write them a note and express your and our thanks to them. Also please get their current catalog or go online and look at all the wonderful irises that they are selling. Place an order to go with your winning bid. If you will do this, it will help them and help us. The hybridizers and gardens that donated irises this year were:

Terry & Barbara Aitken – **Salmon Creek Garden**
 Tom Burseen – **The Lab**
 Joe Ghio – **Bayview Gardens**
 Chad Harris – **Mt Pleasant Iris Farm**
 Robert & Linda Karr – **Newport Naturals Iris**
 Keith Keppel – **Keith Keppel Iris 2013**

Larry & Marcy Lauer – **Lauer's Flowers**
 Bob Van Liere – **Iris4U Gardens**
 Kelly Norris – **Rainbow Iris Farm**
 John & Lesley Painter – **Napa Country Iris Gardens**
 Will & Tracy Plotner – **Wildwood Gardens**
 Riley & Shirley Probst – **Fleur de Lis Gardens**
Schreiner's Iris Gardens
 Don & Ginny Spoon – **Winterberry Gardens**
 Hugh Stout – **Stout Gardens At Dancingtree**
 Melody & Jerry Wilhoit - **Redbud Lane Iris Gardens**

Finally, we owe a debt of gratitude to our volunteers that helped Nick and me over the course of five full vigorous days of organizing, setting up, working shifts, distributing and tearing down the AIS Silent Auction. We could not have managed without all of you. Thank you for your time and dedication as well as your thoughtfulness and love.

Now don't forget we will be in Dallas next year and hope to see you with your bids, donations, time and energy. ♣



Photo: Andi Rivarola



Photo: Jan Lauritzen



Photo: Will Plotner



Photo: Andi Rivarola

Herbicide Studies for Weed Control in Irises

BY JOHN E. KAUFMANN, MICHIGAN

(Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of articles John intends to write on weed control in irises. He welcomes questions about his studies via email and thanks the AIS Foundation for the financial support of his work.)



Untreated, control patch of nutsedge.



Nutsedge patch 16 days after sulfentrazone application.

On June 8, Jean and I had the wonderful opportunity to be a host garden for the 2013 Siberian and Species Iris Convention. Preparation for that convention began in August of 2009, when I received about 150 beardless iris guests for which I thought of myself as a foster parent. In order for our farm to be presentable, I needed to find a method of weed control, especially for the acre of bearded iris that we grow for our own enjoyment and for the sales in support of the Tri-County Iris Society based in the Lansing, MI area.

It is important to understand that I am sensitive to those who have concerns about the over use of pesticides. In that light, I have always searched for herbicide alternatives when the area of application was small enough or when my knowledge of herbicide injury to iris was lacking. So, as a foster parent to the 150 beardless guests, I decided it was too risky to use herbicides, and I used tillage, wood chips and hand weeding to keep the weeds under control. That was a lot of physical work. At the same time, that kind of weed control on an acre of bearded iris was impractical. I began to search for an alternative to physical labor and mechanical tillage.

In that same year, I began a research study on iris safety to herbicide applications. Since I had worked in herbicide R&D for the Monsanto Company for over 20 years, I knew what most herbicides would do to weeds, but nothing about how safe they were on irises. The

AIS caught wind of my intentions and asked if I would submit a proposal for research. I am very grateful to the AIS for supporting me in this research. In the fall of 2009, I planted 48 6' x 6' plots with three plants each of TBs 'Distant Fire' (Schreiner's, 1983), 'Jesse's Song' (Williamson, 1983) and the SDB 'Blue Pools' (Jones, 1973), as well a one clump each of unknown Siberian and Japanese irises, and one plant of the spuria 'Premier' (Barr, 1899). These were grown until June of 2010 when the first set of 16 herbicides was applied, each on three plots (replications). Since many of these herbicides were slow acting, plots were evaluated for one full year, and true to form, it took that long for some of them to kill the irises.

For some of the plots where the herbicide did not injure any irises, a second application of two different herbicides at several rates was applied in July 2011. Finally, prior to the convention, I applied two more herbicides, each on three healthy plots with fast-acting herbicides that showed injury symptoms on the weeds but not on the iris at the time of the tour.

Herbicides are classified or grouped by the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) by the method in which they kill weeds. Generally, these mechanisms occur in plants but do not occur in animals, including humans. These include things such as photosynthesis inhibitors, cellulose inhibitors, inhibitors of amino

acids that animals must eat because they do not make their own, etc. Being grouped in a particular manner, may also give a clue as to how irises might respond. In other words, if the active ingredient of Preen® is safe on irises, other herbicides in the same group may also be safe.

The active ingredient in Preen® is now trifluralin. Some years ago it was oryzalin. Also the active ingredient clethodim has three trade names that I know of: Select®, Envoy® and Arrow™. This represents the difficulty weed scientists have in keeping up with trade names. Thus I will be discussing the herbicides using only their common chemical name. This name is found on every herbicide container in small print associated with the words “active ingredient.” When you want to know trade names, Google the phrase “trade names for trifluralin,” for example. Alternatively you can do the same thing in reverse by searching the phrase “active ingredient of Preen®.”

For the remainder of this article, I will detail the two groups that I have already introduced in my above examples. Remember, always follow label instructions on each herbicide container for both rate of application and wearing appropriate safety clothing.

Group K Herbicides (subgroup roots)

This group of herbicides inhibits mitosis (a part of cell division) on the emerging seedling roots just after germination. Thus Group K herbicides are preemergent and must be applied and watered in the soil prior to weed seed germination. This is done either in early spring and/or just after transplant to newly prepared bare soil. The August/September transplant application (or a fall application) can effectively prevent winter annuals, whereas spring application of this group will not kill off previously existing winter annuals.

The principle mechanism of iris safety is that the roots of the iris are much lower in the soil profile than the weed seeds that germinate. Also with a large energy reserve in the rhizome and numerous long roots, should the herbicide get down to the iris roots, a little bit of root restriction does not affect the plant. Obviously, hybridizers should not use Group K herbicides when growing iris from seed.

There are many Group K (root) herbicides including: dithiopyr, oryzalin, pendimethalin, prodiamine, and trifluralin as examples of those that are often sold in the turf, landscape and garden marketplace. Look at the small print on the container to find out which one is available in your area. For the most part, these herbicides all perform similarly. If you have a sandy soil where

water moves down rapidly, you might prefer to use the less water-soluble prodiamine. If you have hard clay, you may prefer oryzalin, pendimethalin or trifluralin. Dithiopyr has an added advantage in that it will take down several weed species as newly emerged juveniles. But if any of these Group K herbicides are available, use what you can get. Often this group of herbicides is included in fertilizers and even mulch.

Group A Herbicides

This group is often called by two general names—the graminicides and the “fops and dims”—and attack an enzyme that synthesizes fatty acids. Only grasses have this susceptible enzyme. All other plants have a different enzyme that is not affected by these herbicides. Therefore, they can be used safely over the top of all plants in the landscape including irises, unless of course they are lawn or ornamental grasses.

Group A herbicides are slow to act, and may take up to 10 days for the first visible symptoms. If you get anxious to see what they are doing, after three or four days, pull up the center leaves. They should break apart near the base and show rot on the ends where they severed. Common chemical names that might be found in the homeowner market include: fluazafop, quizalofop, clethodim and sethoxydim. Generally these products are identified as “grass killers.” When you see that, be sure that the only chemical in the container is one of the above. If you see another chemical that ends in “fop” or “dim,” please give me a call or email to identify it. Do not confuse grass killers with those known as “grass and weed killers.” The latter often contain Roundup® or other ingredient that will injure irises.

Finally, I will close this article by mentioning a new homeowner herbicide I found at Home Depot. It is labeled as Ortho® Nutsedge Killer, with the active ingredient sulfentrazone. I purchased a container and applied five days prior to the convention tour to both a nutsedge patch and three of the healthy iris safety plots. The nutsedge was showing burn symptoms at the tour, and the irises still have not shown any injury symptoms some 15 days after treatment. Based on my knowledge of this group of chemistry, iris will likely continue not to show any injury, but I am doubtful that it will translocate down and kill the nutsedge nutlets. Thus repeat applications will be likely. ♣

John Kaufmann is a retired herbicide researcher who worked for Monsanto. For more information about his studies with herbicides and their effects on irises, email him at jekaufmann@gmail.com.

Turning 40—

Wait, I Already Did That!

BY PATRICK SPENCE, WASHINGTON

Larkow 0640-010B

Editor's Note: This article is reprinted from The Siberian Iris, Spring 2013.

Those of you who have met me know that it is difficult for me to be serious. But, turning 40 is a serious topic, so I will attempt to tackle it in a serious manner. There are many items that must be taken into consideration prior to turning 40. You will spread. Do you have enough room? You may have to lose some of what you have. Are you willing? A new obsession. Is there time? Are you able? But we are not talking about you. We're not even talking about me. We are preparing to discuss the "Sino-Siberian" irises.

If you are reading this magazine, you know the modern garden Siberian irises (subseries *Sibericae*): 'Blueberry Fair' (Hollingworth, 1996), 'Miss Apple' (Schafer/Sacks, 2009), 'My First Kiss' (Cole, 2004), etc. They are great garden plants with beautiful flowers and, most important to this article, have 28 chromosomes (56 for converted tetraploids). The Sino-Siberian irises have 40 chromosomes, giving them their nickname, "40s." Though foliage and flower form are similar to the "Garden Siberians," cultural requirements for 40s are very different. The 40s have colors and patterns not seen in the 28s, are frequently heavily scented, and have

the added benefit of attracting hummingbirds. The bloom season for the 40s is one to two weeks behind the 28s.

BORING TECHNICAL INFORMATION

The Sino-Siberian subseries (subseries *Chrysographes*), also known as "40s," includes the following eight species: *Iris wilsonii*, *I. forestii*, *I. chrysographes*, *I. delavayi*, *I. clarkei*, *I. bulleyana*, *I. phragmitetorum*, and *I. dykesii*. There are people who will argue that *I. bulleyana*, *I. phragmitetorum*, and *I. dykesii* are natural hybrids and not true species, but I leave those arguments to others. All have 40 chromosomes and cross readily with each other. All come from the Himalayan area of southwestern China and Tibet. These species cover a broad range of colors: blue, purple, yellow (*I. forestii* and *I. wilsonii*), near black (*I. chrysographes*), and reddish (*I. chrysographes* var. *rubella*). Most of these species have no branching and two buds, but *I. delavayi* and *I. clarkei* tend to have one to three branches and higher bud counts. *Iris chrysographes* stands about 14" tall, while *I. delavayi* can grow up to 48". All species have the same cultural needs. They prefer a consistently moist, rich soil that tends toward the acidic side; alkaline

soil will not do. They need plenty of sunshine and love high-nitrogen fertilizer. They also need a cold winter to bloom. While relatively pest- and disease-free, 40s are notably susceptible to phytophthora, a soil-inhabiting water mold that causes crown rot. A good fungicide may be necessary.

I currently only grow the black form of *Iris chrysographes*. It blooms gloriously for me every year. I have 10 different clones and find each to have its own unique character due to its signal pattern. The specific epithet breaks down to mean “gold” (chryso) “writing” (graphes), referring to the signal present on most flowers.

MY ADVENTURE BEGINS

One of the first irises I grew was Sino-Siberian ‘Dotted Line’ (Reid, 1991). I had no idea that it was different in any way from the other Siberians I purchased, except for the unique coloring. Later, I visited Carla Lankow’s garden, where I was able to see hundreds of different 40s. Carla has been hybridizing the 40s as a hobby for many years. She immediately became my mentor, and I learned all that I am sharing with you here. Carla had many pots of new seedlings (2006 crosses) with nowhere to plant them. I took them home, lined them out and immediately had a collection. I also began to collect other registered varieties from anywhere I could find them. Unfortunately, they are not widely distributed, and many have become extinct. I did manage to find a few, however. In 2009, I received many more seedlings (2008 crosses) from Carla and all have bloomed now. I have selected many for future hybridizing and a few for introduction. I now have about 100 different clones. In 2011, I made my first crosses. Every cross took and now I have several hundred of my own seedlings. They are impatiently waiting to be lined out in my garden, pending a hint of rain.

A BIT ABOUT HYBRIDIZING 40S

I mentioned that the species cross readily and the same is all too true with the hybrids. In fact, you need to be on your toes to make the crosses you want before the bees get to them. The 40s have nectar that bumblebees and hummingbirds love. I have witnessed bumblebees drilling into a bud just before it opens. I also frequently see them use their legs to pry a bud open. To solve this, I gently tease a bud open, strip off all the petals and stamens and wait until the following morning for the style arms to relax and the stigmatic lip to open. Hummingbirds cause a different problem. They love the nectar too. While sipping at a nearby flower, the wings will blow pollen onto the flower you just pollinated, contaminating your cross. To solve this, I gently place a nylon stocking or a bag over the

pollinated flower. It only needs to stay there a day or two until the stigmatic lips have dried up and will no longer accept pollen. I also tend to use a very small paintbrush to dab the pollen (thank you, Carla). The stigmatic lip can be fragile, and my clumsy fingers break them too often. It is simple to do, but be sure to dip the brush in alcohol and allow it to dry between crosses to ensure you don’t mix the pollen on the brush. Each pod will give you 50 to 100+ seeds, so plan accordingly. The seeds germinate readily with only few that are unviable.

Hybridizing has come a long way for the garden Siberians. The difference between the species and today’s modern hybrids are dramatic, but I am certain that the hybridizers will tell you there is much yet to do. Hybridizing with the 40s is comparatively untouched. Some very good work has already been accomplished, but there is an endless amount of work to be done and plenty of room for people to try.

WHERE WILL THIS GO?

I have seedlings in a broad range of colors: blues, purples, yellows, and “reds,” along with a few blends. There is a lot of work to do here. The individual colors are good but could be brightened up a bit. I think the colors need to be blended together to get more variety.

Most have a species-like form, but many are showing wider falls and hafts. I believe the genetics of the 40s allow for a more modern form similar to some of the 28s. The flowers are generally small in relation to the height of the stalk. I would like to see how large we can make them.



Lankow 0640-011E



The foliage of the 40s is generally very good with both upright and gracefully arching forms in shades of yellow-green and blue-green. There are the occasional plants with floppy foliage or curvy stalks that are ruthlessly removed from my breeding stock. The stalks range in height from 24" to 60" and have 0 to 3 branches. It is uncommon for the flowers to be in the foliage, even on the three-branch stalks. Keeping the stalks in proportion to the height of the foliage is the larger problem. As with the 28s, three to five buds per stalk should be a minimum.

It would be good to find out where these will grow. They grow well in western Oregon and Washington. I have seen them bloom in Victoria, British Columbia. Bob and Judy Hollingworth have one that grows for them in Michigan. I suspect, with a little extra care, they will grow anywhere with acidic soil and a cold winter.

HOW TO GROW THEM

Three words: compost, water, and fertilizer. Oh, and sun. These are not shade plants. They need at least 4 to 6 hours of sun, but will take as much as you can give them.

40s love a rich soil. If you work some compost into your planting area, they will be pleased. I also like to mulch them with 1" to 2" of compost. This helps fortify the soil, retains moisture and retards weed growth. I do not think they will tolerate an alkaline soil—neutral to acidic is best. The one thing I do that may be difficult for others is move them to new soil every three years. I do this to avoid a buildup of phytophthora. I do not know if

that is necessary, but it works for me. I have not yet had to use a fungicide.

While they like at least 1" of water each week, 40s will live with less frequent watering, though they need consistently moist soil to really show off. I apply an early spring dose of a balanced fertilizer, followed by a high-nitrogen fertilizer right after bloom season. This mix seems to work well for me.

CAL-SIBS

I feel the need to briefly mention the species cross called a Cal-Sib. It is a cross between the subseries Californicae (Pacific Coast Iris) and the Sino-Siberian irises. All species of the Pacific Coast Iris have 40 chromosomes. The theory behind this cross is to take the unique flowers of the PCIs and put them onto plants that will grow east of the Cascade Mountains. The cross works, though not as easily as each type crosses with itself. Cal-Sibs transplant well, have unique and beautiful flowers, have hybrid vigor, and will grow in areas the PCIs will not. If you would like to give these a try, there are many to recommend. 'Lyric Laughter' (Witt, 1988), 'Chapter Two' (Rigby, 1999), and 'Pacific Smoothie' (Reid, 1993) are three I will never be without.

Turning 40 was not a bad thing. In fact, I rather enjoyed it. Perhaps you will too. ❀

Patrick Spence is Second Vice President of the Society for Siberian Irises and proprietor of Cascadia Iris Gardens. You can reach him at Patrick@CascadiaIrisGardens.com.



Previous page, left to right: Lankow O84O-O2OA, Lankow O64O-O34A

This page, left to right, top to bottom: Lankow O84O-O24A, 'Rubicon' (Lankow, R.), 'Dotted Line' (Reid, 1992), Lankow O84O-O27





Lankow 0840-030A



the chrysographes with no signal



Lankow 0840-025





Lankow 0640-020E



'McKenzie Bruiser' (Reid, 2001)



Lankow 06OPG

The History of Reverchon Park and the Iris Bowl

BY STEVE HOUSER, TEXAS

Editor's Note: Steve gave an entertaining after dinner presentation of the story of Reverchon Park and the Iris Bowl at the welcome banquet during the 2013 AIS National Convention. I invited him to write a follow-up story about this local attraction in hopes of encouraging next year's convention attendees to visit.

Reverchon Park is known to be the crown jewel of the Dallas, Texas park system and was once called the "Central Park" of Dallas. Located just north of downtown, the park offers open grassland, mature trees, rocky outcroppings and as well as historic stonework and the locally famous Iris Bowl.

In 1915, the City of Dallas purchased 36 acres for what was known as a "far north Dallas" park. The term is amusing today because the park is actually within walking distance of downtown. First named Turtle Creek Park, the property was renamed Reverchon Park after botanist Julien Reverchon, who was born in France in 1840 and arrived at La Reunion colony, across the Trinity River from the young Dallas, with his father in 1856. Reverchon collected samples from over 2,600 species of plants, four of which are named after him. He also collected more than 20,000 specimens of Texas plants prior to his death in 1905. For more information about Julien Reverchon, read *Naturalists of the Frontier* by Samuel Wood Geiser.

The park's baseball field was officially dedicated in 1920. The grandstand was erected in 1924, and the ballpark soon gained the reputation as the best baseball field in the city. That same year, water fountains were installed to provide well water to local residents. People from across Texas travelled to Reverchon Park to experience the mythical healing powers of the water from Gill Well.

During the 1920s and 1930s, improvements such as the Iris Bowl, landscaping, picnic areas, baseball diamond, playground equipment, and tennis courts transformed the park into a site of many celebrations, including Fourth of July and Juneteenth. For years, the Iris Bowl hosted Greek pageants, dance performances, and other celebrations.

The official Iris Bowl dedication took place on April 20, 1938, with many prominent Dallas Iris Society members present. Those known associates included Marie Caillet, who co-wrote two books on irises and has five iris varieties named after her. As the great niece of Julien Reverchon, she continued the family's interest in botany.



The park expanded to 46 acres in 1951. In 1975, the Reverchon Recreation Center opened, offering a variety of indoor recreational activities. During the 1970s, the Dallas Park and Recreation system was recognized as being the very best in the nation. Although the parks were a source of great pride, a downturn in the economy in the mid-1980s and 1990s led to the ongoing reduction of the department's annual budgets. As a result, the park became a haven for crime and the homeless.

In 1998, the park's primary neighbor, Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, gathered community support to clean up the park and restore its reputation. Under the leadership of hospital president, J.C. Montgomery, hospital staff, and a core group of supporters, almost 500 volunteers removed over 40 tons of trash and debris.

In 2002, the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, and the City of Dallas built a state-of-the-art playground accessible to children of all levels of ability. At some point afterward, a Reverchon hawthorn, (*Crataegus reverchonii*) was planted near the playground in honor of Julien Reverchon and to reconnect the restored park to its namesake.

In 2005, the Friends of Reverchon Park was established as a nonprofit entity, and the group drafted a master plan for the park (www.reverchonparkfriends.com). Another Reverchon hawthorne was planted in the park in honor of retiring president Linda White and board member Alexia Griffin. The group successfully lobbied for \$3.5 million in bond funds to renovate the park and restore its historic stonework.

During the early days of the cleanup efforts, the Iris Bowl was often mistakenly called an amphitheater and it became clear there was a need to consider its renovation. The Dallas Iris Society, Dallas Park Department officials, and the Friends of Reverchon board members studied the options and landscape plans were developed. The primary renovations were completed during the 2010 annual cleanup effort. A subsequent effort to plant the irises followed with Iris Society members and other volunteers. Both bearded and Louisiana irises were planted on the ends of all the beds, in addition to *Salvia greggii*, *Lantana* 'New Gold', dwarf fountain grass, rock rose (*Cistus*), Mexican marigold, Karl Foerster grass (*Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster'), Knock Out® roses, asters, *Echinacea* and red yucca (*Hesperaloe parviflora*). ♣

Steve Houser is a Dallas native and Friends of Reverchon Park board member. In addition to being an ISA Certified Arborist for more than 30 years, he is a certified Texas Master Gardener and Texas Master Naturalist. You can reach him at SHouser@arborillogical.com.

Previous page, top to bottom: The Iris Bowl, Julien Reverchon

This page, top to bottom: The Iris Bowl in bloom, trails in Reverchon Park, Second Reverchon hawthorne planted in ipark.



— MY — **FAVORITE** IRISES

Historic iris collector Mike Unser picks a dozen of his favorite Jim Gibson plicatas while exploring the hybridizer's esteemed contributions to the world of irises.

'Mod Mode'



After a visit to the garden of Dr. Sydney B. Mitchell in 1940, Jim Gibson embarked on a quest to improve the color range in the plicata pattern in irises. He went home that day with pollen from a brown toned seedling and put it on ‘Sacramento’ (Mohr-Mitchell, 1929), the only plicata still blooming in his garden in Porterville, CA. Thus started a long line of iris breeding that lasted five decades and took Mr. Gibson to the height of acclaim in the iris world when his beautiful ‘Kilt Lilt’ (1970) won the Dykes Memorial Medal in 1976. He was also awarded the AIS Hybridizers Medal in 1965 and the Premio Firenze Medal in international competition in Italy that same year.

I first noticed the Gibson varieties when I started collecting old Cooley’s Gardens catalogs. Cooley’s introduced his creations for many years and featured dozens of beautiful photos of them. Already having a soft spot for brown irises, I was fascinated with the rainbow of brown-toned irises Mr. Gibson created. Colors and tones that didn’t appear in any other pattern were routinely coming out of the Gibson breeding lines. His work greatly expanded the palette available. Here are a few that I have collected.

‘Chinquapin’ (1960) is a beautifully tailored flower in delicious golden-brown that always makes me think of cinnamon toast. Like many of Mr. Gibson’s creations, it is not a flashy color and has a rather somber aspect when shaded, but when lit glows with warm, rich, sparkling tones.

The following year Cooley’s introduced a variety that was to gain wide renown and find an enduring popularity. ‘Cayenne Capers’ (1961) was a deep, rich, red-pepper plicata that caught everyone’s eye. The coloration so thickly applied that only a small patch of cream at the center of the falls showed through. It is still a favorite with collectors today. It is a hardy, vigorous grower and reliable bloomer as well.

1962 was a banner year, with several fabulous introductions, of which I have three: ‘Wild Ginger’, a large, ruffled soft golden brown that shows pinker tones in the sun; ‘Dream Spun’, a blend of pinkish amethyst on white with lots of flare; and ‘Siva Siva’, a rich combination of old-gold standards over mahogany-red on white falls. All three were big advances in color and form for plicatas. The sunlight completely changes their tones taking them from drab to dramatic in an instant. With the widely flaring falls on ‘Siva Siva’, a clump in full bloom appears like a cloud of whirling dervishes. It brings energy and exuberance to the perennial border.

‘Flashing Gem’ from 1963 is an excellent iris featuring large blooms on tall stems. Though the blooms sport

wavy petals, they present a graceful effect to the eye. Mr. Gibson relied on the Sass iris ‘Tiffany’ (1931) in his early work and you can see the influence here, but in a much cleaner and more distinct pattern. The flowers are a soft, buttery yellow ringed with deep rose-pink.

1963 brought us the out-of-this-world styling of ‘In Orbit’. Nothing like it had been seen before, a dazzling new pattern for plicatas. The standards are a solid tan with a light flush of violet, while the falls are white deeply peppered with dark plum—such a vivid and striking combination and one of my favorites.

‘Radiant Apogee’ (1966) is well named—it is one of the brightest yellows in the garden. A sparkling lemony yellow with falls banded the same on a white ground. Cute little freckles of brown are faintly and lightly scattered across the hafts, and one occasionally ventures further down. A very hardy and floriferous variety.

That same year also brought us ‘Heather Hawk’ (1966). Described as pinkish-copper, it is certainly a very different shade for a flower. The colors lighten as the bloom ages, and the petals sport lots of ruffles and waves.

Another 1966 introduction ‘Native Chief’ is warm and rich in buckskin brown enlivened with plenty of gold undertones. A peppering of brown at the hafts adds more interest. The flowers are large and flaring as well.

‘Island Holiday’ (1970) is a brassy golden yellow with falls that sport a cream-toned center sprinkled all over with cinnamon. A big, bright, and bold flower. I can’t decide if I like it or not, but it refuses to be ignored.

The last one I have to share is also from 1970. ‘Mod Mode’ features petals of palest pink lightly and delicately stitched rose-pink. The ruffles and waves are very pronounced, with the blooms appearing almost like seashells. A really lovely and delicate variety.

Jim Gibson was truly one of the greats in iris hybridizing, and he did so much to advance the palette and form in the flower, most especially with his plicatas. These are only a fraction of the work he did over his lifetime, and his varieties are well worth growing, enjoying and preserving for the future. I look forward to many years of beauty in my garden from his effort and inspiration, and I hope you will be inspired to look for his varieties for your garden as well. ♣

Mike Unser is a passionate collector of historic irises, writing about them for the AIS Blog and serving as webmaster for the Historic Iris Preservation Society. He can be reached at garden.of.mu@gmail.com.



'Dream Spun'



'Heather Hawk'



'Cayenne Capers'



'Chinquapin'



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'Radiant Apogee'



'Island Holiday'



'Siva Siva'



'Wild Ginger'



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'In Orbit'

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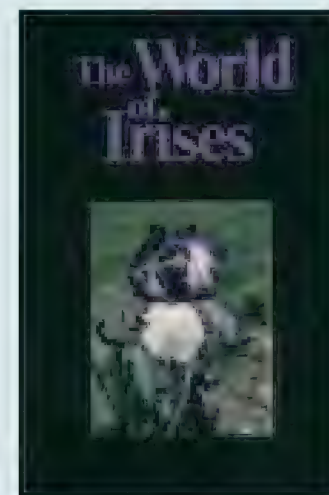
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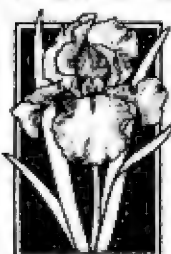
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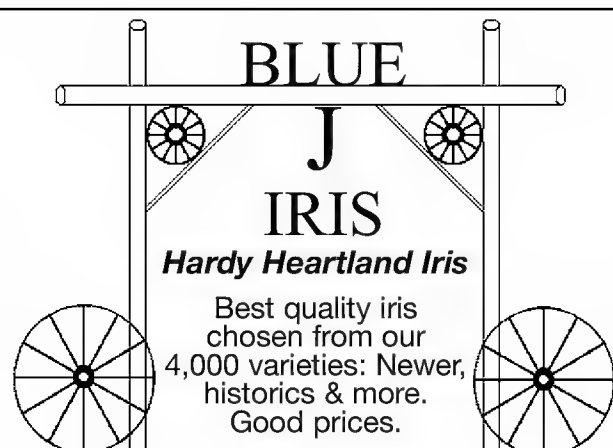
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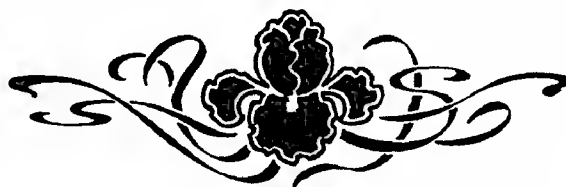
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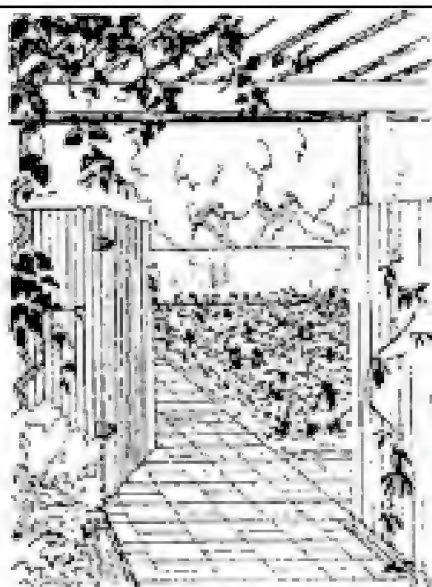
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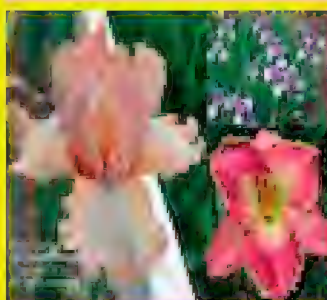
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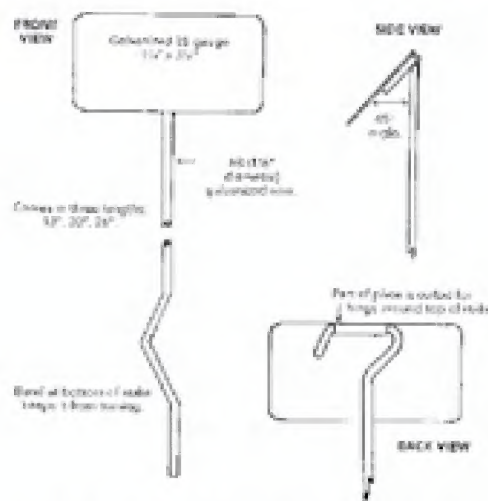


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